The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1887.

The Week.

JOHN SHERMAN has announced the platform on which he would have the Republicans contest the election of 1888 under a candidate whom modesty forbids him to mention. One plank is "A fair count of the vote in the Southern States," by which he explains that he means the assumption by Congress of control over all Federal elections in the South. This would be the revival and extension of a power which a Republican Congress refused to exercise so long ago as when the "Force Bill" was defeated in 1875, and which a Republican President definitively surrendered when Mr. Hayes removed the troops from the South and granted home rule in 1877. That Mr. Sherman should seriously make such a proposition ten years later seems almost incredible. But it is not much more absurd than his other plank, which is the maintenance of the present tariff, except for reduction or abolition of the sugar tax, to be compensated by a bounty; the return to the States of the direct tax; and the revival of that disastrous Distribution Act of 1837 for the purpose of apportioning $20,000,000 of the surplus among the States. Time was when John Sherman was presented as an eminently "safe" and conservative man for the Presidency, but nobody would suspect it to hear him talk in these days.

One of the most important cases that have yet come before the Inter-State Commerce Commission is that in which the Standard Oil Trust appears as the real defendant, although the nominal defendants are certain railroads around which it has thrown its tentacles. It is undoubtedly true that all the railroads, including the nominal defendants in the present hearing, would be happier if the Standard Oil Trust had never existed. Undoubtedly they would all be happier if that concern were removed out of the way by "the comet, the Turk, or the devil." The saying of Commodore Vanderbilt, that there was only one man in the world whom he was afraid of, and that one was the manager of the Standard Oil Company, is well remembered. All the railroad kings are afraid of the thing that the old Commodore was afraid of. They are in terror of the power that controls the distribution of oil in the United States. In the presence of this power they are not free moral agents. It is as useless to chide them for obeying the behests of the Standard Oil Trust as it would be to rail at Jupiter's satellites for revolving around their primary. They are simply obeying the law of gravitation. They will continue to rotate around Standard Oil until a stronger force—for example, the Government of the United States—comes into the field. Probably no case will ever come before the Commission which will excite deeper or more widespread interest. The counsel on both sides embrace the best legal talent, and it is evident that no stone will be left unturned by either side to secure a verdict. Fortunately the tribunal before whom the case is to be heard has acquired universal confidence by the prudent and conservative line of its decisions. While leaning, as it ought, in favor of the idea of non-discrimination, upon which the Commerce Act is founded, it has nevertheless shown the purpose to construe the law with the utmost fairness to vested interests, and to avoid as much as possible the upsetting of established business arrangements. It is safe to assume that the decision, or decisions which may be reached will rest upon good legal as well as social and economical grounds.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union, at its recent Convention in Nashville, Tenn., adopted a resolution declaring that the principle underlying the internal-revenue tax on liquor is wrong, and advocating "the abolition of the internal revenue on alcoholic liquors and tobacco, for the reason that it operates to render more difficult the securing and enforcement of prohibitory laws, and so postpones the day of national deliverance." This is another of those performances by professed reformers which make one wonder that the cause which they advocate can make any progress under such auspices. No fact is more certain or obvious than that the tax upon liquors operates to raise the price and thus to diminish consumption. It is equally certain and obvious that if the Government surrenders the revenue of $90,000,000 a year which it now gets from the tax on liquors, it must keep $90,000,000 a year of unnecessary taxes upon the food and clothing of the people; in other words, that if it abolishes the tax on something which people can dispense with, it must maintain taxes on necessaries. In short, there is not a consideration of sound finance or good morals which is not outraged by the suggestion of repealing the liquor tax; and the spectacle of a convention of people who are devoted to the cause of temperance thus serving the cause of intemperance, is a most melancholy one.

The election on the question of putting prohibition into the Constitution of Oregon proves to have resulted in a majority of about 8,000 against the amendment. Fully two-thirds of this comes from Multnomah County, which includes Portland, where the heaviest vote ever cast stood almost exactly four to one against prohibition; and its friends, with apparent justice, attribute the result to the intelligent, candid, and vigorous opposition of the *Oregonian*, the chief newspaper of the State. The *Oregonian* expresses the belief that fully one-half of the affirmative votes were those of men who had been driven to that stand by the offensive course of the liquor-sellers in interfering in politics, and the question of prohibition was no sooner disposed of than it began an earnest advocacy of high license. The election in Oregon was the fourth State election of the year on the question of prohibition (Michigan, Texas, and Tennessee having preceded it), and there is no doubt that the dogma has lost strength ever since it came so near being incorporated in the Michigan Constitution last spring. The trend of public sentiment throughout the country is now unmistakably towards a combination of local option and high license. Florida is the latest State to try the policy of allowing each county thus to decide for itself whether or not liquor shall be sold, and in this way a large portion of the commonwealth has within a few weeks past established a sort of prohibition which the local sentiment of the communities involved will sustain and enforce. Dakota is also trying this system, and at the recent election more than three-fourths of the counties established prohibition under a local-option law.

The National Civil-Service Commission has adopted a new rule, which requires persons who vouch for a candidate for office to answer affirmatively the question, "Would you, yourself, trust him with employment requiring undoubted honesty, and would you recommend him for such to your personal friends?" This is a terrible blow at the business of signing recommendations. Heretofore they have been largely signed because the signers would not themselves trust the persons whom they recommended, and hoped to get rid of any responsibility for them by saddling them upon the Government.

The protectionists have for some time past been making loud claims that they were gaining tremendously throughout the South, and especially in Georgia. A few weeks ago it was announced, with a flourish of trumpets, that they proposed to "show their power" by defeating for reëlection Senator Colquitt, a pronounced revenue reformer, whose term expires in 1889, and sending in his stead a Sam Randall sort of Democrat. But the scheme was no sooner broached than it became manifest that it would fail. Discussion has shown that the press of the State is well-nigh unanimous for Mr. Colquitt's reëlection, and there is no longer a question that he will be returned. Moreover, public sentiment has been shown to be so strongly against protection that it appears certain that the successor of Senator Brown, whose term expires in 1891, will also be a tariff reformer.

A current discussion in the Alabama press shows at once the growing prosperity of the South and the increasing absurdity of the plea that the South is still so "impoverished by the war" that special appropriations in its behalf must be made from the Federal Treasury. It appears that the taxable property of the State has increased more than 50 per cent. since 1880. The tax-rate was

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eight mills a dozen years ago, but now has been reduced to five and a half, while it is to be cut down to five next October; and an agitation has already been started to have the next Legislature lower it to four. Some of the papers, however, point out that the State is abundantly able to stand the present rate, and that instead of cutting it down, it ought to be maintained, and the surplus be devoted to a needed increase of the school fund. It will certainly require a rare degree of assurance for any Alabamian longer to pretend that his State needs any outside aid for education or anything else.

A non-partisan movement is now under way in Iowa to secure the enactment by the next Legislature of a statute authorizing the establishment of what are called "Courts of Conciliation." Denmark has made the longest and most thorough trial of this system, and its success has been remarkable. Each local community is authorized to choose a tribunal called by this name, which consists generally of one judge and two assistants, selected with reference to their high standing in the public confidence and their qualifications for composing disputes. This tribunal has jurisdiction of every complaint upon which a civil action might be based, and no such action can be heard in any regular court until it has been laid before the Court of Conciliation and has resulted in a disagreement, so that every cause out of which an action might arise, except in criminal cases, comes first before this tribunal. The principals appear in person and tell their own stories; witnesses are called in if necessary, but no counsel are allowed; and if the decision is accepted by both parties, the dispute is ended and lawyers' fees are saved, while the judgment has the same force as a judgment of an ordinary court. That the decisions are accepted in the bulk of cases appears from the fact that during the first five years of the system 116,483 cases were brought before the "Courts of Conciliation," of which 74,742 were there settled, and during the next five years 190,836, of which 121,970 were settled, and only half of the remainder were ever carried to actual litigation.

Vermont not long ago appointed a forestry commission, but a paper published at the capital, whose editor has travelled a good deal over the State, says that there is not much for it to do. The Montpelier editor is of opinion that wood is now growing faster in Vermont than it is used, and he speaks of having visited many regions where acres upon acres which were cultivated only a few years ago are now growing up to wood. He thinks that there is no necessity for any special effort to secure the growth of wood, and even goes so far as to say that many farmers might cut more wood on their farms with profit. There is no apparent reason to doubt the soundness of these views so far as they relate to Vermont, but investigation on the other side of the Connecticut River would show the urgent necessity of severe restrictions upon the wholesale operations of the lumberers. In the White Mountain region the primeval forests are steadily and rapidly disappearing under the axe, and already the bad results are visible in the alternate droughts and floods in such beautiful streams as the Pemigewasset, and in a grave diminution of the attractions of the region. The summer-resort industry in New Hampshire, as in Maine, has become one of the greatest sources of revenue to the people, and scarcely any limit can be placed upon its possible development under wise management; but the Yankee will show that he has lost his traditional shrewdness if he does not soon perceive that he is killing the goose that lays the golden eggs when he destroys the forests of the State.

Dakota has at last done what ought to have been done years ago: she has held an election to decide whether her people prefer to come into the Union as one State or two. The politicians who had worked up the scheme for division and apportioned the prospective offices among themselves have always insisted that popular sentiment was overwhelmingly on their side, and the result shows a preponderance of sentiment in favor of division, though the estimated majority of only about 12,000 falls very far short of what the divisionists have claimed. However, it is only fair to treat the verdict as decisive, inasmuch as there are already people enough in the southern half of the Territory to constitute a State. But Congress ought never to admit that region under the name of South Dakota, with the application of North Dakota to the remainder, when so excellent and appropriate a name as Pembina is ready at hand for the northern half, leaving Dakota pure and simple for the southern half.

The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Maine has been making an inquiry into the cost of living in that State at the present time, as compared with five and ten years ago. Statistics have been collected from a number of families whose conditions are representative not only of the mode of life of the native-born Yankees, but also of the Canadian French, the Germans, and the English. From these statistics the Commissioner deduces the conclusion that the purchasing power of a dollar in Maine has increased appreciably within the last decade, and that as much food can now be bought for one dollar as cost $1.14 in 1882 and $1.17 in 1877. Of course it is absurd to give any partisan bias to such figures; but after the example which the Republicans so long set of attributing the prosperity of the country to the party in power at Washington, it will only be human nature for Democratic organs and stump speakers in Maine during the next Presidential campaign to cite these statistics, and ask workingmen why there should be a change.

The controversy over third-class mail matter which has been in progress for the past month is discreditable to the management of the Post-office Department. The trouble appears to come from the sudden revival and vigorous enforcement of a rule, which had long been a dead letter, forbidding the use on envelopes containing such mail matter of any endorsement as to the sender beyond his name and address, the claim being made that many people have fallen into the habit of printing advertisements of their business upon their envelopes. Very likely there is sufficient foundation for this claim, and it would have been eminently proper for the Department to insist upon a reform. But there is a right way and a wrong way of doing a proper thing. In this case the right way would have been for the Postmaster-General to give the public full notice of the fact that the Department proposed to make a change and rigorously enforce a law which few people knew to exist, and to explain exactly what could and what could not be printed upon envelopes and wrappers in any part of the country. The wrong way would have been to spring the matter suddenly upon the country, to give no general explanation of what the change really involved, and to leave postmasters all over the land to exercise their discretion in enforcing the rule, with the natural result that one allows what another forbids, and that nobody can feel the slightest assurance as to the treatment of any particular case. This latter method is the one which Postmaster-General Vilas chose to pursue.

From the days of Mr. Lincoln, when women were first given employment in the Washington departments, down to the days of Mr. Cleveland, the tenure by which they have held their positions has been, as a lawyer would say, *dum sola*. Until Mr. Vilas recently changed it, the rule that the marriage of a female clerk worked the forfeiture of her place, had been without an exception. This rule was not founded upon the idea that marriage unfitted a woman for clerical work, because it has been usual to give these positions to the wives of men who would not or could not support their families. It cannot be supposed that it was adopted and enforced in deference to what the female clerks themselves owed to morality and propriety, because it soon became an open secret that its natural result was the encouragement of clandestine marriages, and in some cases something worse. The truth is, that a woman was expected to give up her position as soon as she got a husband or some one else to support her, because the place was provided (in the few cases in which it was not considered a reward for partisan service) for those who could not otherwise make a living. The same principle has operated for years as respects the male clerks, also, causing them to refrain from accumulating their incomes, or at any rate from investing their earnings in real estate, or in anything which constitutes visible wealth. At one time it was almost as hazardous for a male clerk to be considered well-to-do as it was for a female clerk to be known as married. The Civil-Service Act having stripped our departments, to some extent at least, of their eleemosynary as well as their partisan features, this rule naturally falls to the ground. Nor

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is there any longer a valid reason why a competent clerk should be dismissed the service, or refused entrance to it, because another member of his or her family happens also to be in the employment of the Government—the only limitation which this Administration feels called upon to regard.

The attempt to make a permanent political issue on the public-school question in Massachusetts appears to have failed already. Mr. Hugh O'Brien, present Mayor of Boston, and prospective Democratic candidate for re-election, an Irish-American and a Roman Catholic, came out in his speech at the old school-boys' banquet the other evening, and declared that the public schools must be protected. The Boston *Record*, Republican organ, is sure that Mr. O'Brien would not have taken this stand, just on the eve of an election, unless he knew that Irish-American Catholics generally agreed with him, and it declares its own belief that, if the question were made a direct issue, nine-tenths of them would support the common schools. No good citizen wants to see the public-school system made a political issue, and it is therefore, from every point of view, good news that no such issue can be made in a city where it has been thought possible.

The fact that an advanced copy of Swinburne's poem was in this city, and in the hands of a publisher who was offering it for sale at the newspaper offices, and had been refused one hundred dollars' worth of advertising for it by the *Tribune*, when the *Times* had it cabled over, makes the enterprise of the latter journal more incomprehensible than ever. In fact, it reduces the whole affair to an outlay of two or three thousand dollars for an advertisement. It is a pity that this could not have taken place, however, without committing piracy on poor Swinburne, and helping other pirates to plunder him more successfully hereafter. It would have been easy enough to have 18,000 words cabled without robbing anybody or encouraging robbery.

The Royal Clyde Yacht Club has withdrawn its notice of a challenge for the *America's* cup next year. The change in the deed of gift which deprives the foreign competitor of the benefit of a time allowance in case he sends a smaller yacht than the one which the Americans build to defend the cup, may bear somewhat heavily upon foreign competitors; but there can be no doubt that, in drawing this rule, the New York Yacht Club Committee had no other end in view than to make it certain that future contests should be only between the fastest types of yachts of the two countries. If the British yacht-builders do not wish to take the chance of having a small yacht of theirs met by a larger American one with no time allowance, all they have to do is to build a large one which will come up to the full limit set by the deed. Nobody wishes to see an end put to our international races, but neither does anybody wish to see those races lowered in the slightest degree from their past high standard.

What will come out of the present political muddle in France it is impossible to foresee. The most serious feature in the situation is to be found in the fact that the Rouvier Ministry, which has just been overthrown, was itself the result of a coalition which probably cannot be repeated. That is to say, when M. Rouvier took office, the Republican party apparently did not furnish materials for a Ministry that would command a majority in the Chambers. The votes needed to put and keep M. Rouvier in power were furnished by the Monarchists in a spasm of patriotism. That there is anybody else who would have equally good luck, nobody believes. The Republicans are hopelessly divided by the Boulanger incident first, and now by the Wilson incident. The Boulangerists are wild with delight over the Wilson exposure, and the Monarchists are chuckling over it and all its concomitants as an illustration of what a republican government always is, or must eventually come to. The latter will probably support no other ministry until they see whether the confusion bodes them any good. President Grévy is in the meantime the great centre of interest. He is over eighty years old, and, of course, somewhat shaken in nerves. The scandal in which his son-in-law is involved, while living under his own roof, is being used by nearly all parties to force his resignation. The Radicals want to oust him, partly because he has been too conservative, partly in order to strengthen their attack on Wilson, and partly in order to see what will happen after he is gone. The Conservatives would like him to go for the last reason mainly, but also to furnish a chance, however slight, of putting a royalist, if not a pretender, in the executive chair.

The difficulty with which even the most upright and well-meaning politicians have to contend at this juncture is, that everybody who tries his hand at either building up or pulling down a candidate has an ulterior object in view. Each of the three great parliamentary divisions is, in everything it does, manœuvring for position. Each is more anxious, in other words, to discredit the others than to establish anything permanent of its own. The Radical Republicans wish to discredit a Conservative Republic, the Conservatives to discredit both a Radical Republic and a Monarchy; while the Monarchists are equally anxious to discredit every kind of Republic. This state of things is, of course, inevitable in a country in which the existing form of the Government is not settled in the minds of all the voters as final. Frenchmen have seen so many changes of Government during the past century that they are naturally incredulous about the permanence of any Government. Nothing but the prolonged existence of the Republic will wear this incredulity out, and destroy the class of political speculators who are now constantly waiting for another revolution. No Government France has seen since 1789 has lasted more than twenty years. Until something turns up which lasts at least thirty—that is, lasts so long that the younger generation of voters remembers nothing else and thinks of nothing else as possible—French politics will continue to be the seething cauldron we now see it. The Republic is only in its seventeenth year. The fatal hour in which another experiment may be set on foot is, in the minds of many, near at hand. The spell will not be considered broken until about 1895.

We hope the London *Times* and other supporters of the English Ministry will not attempt to deduce from the friendly reception which Mr. Chamberlain is meeting with in this country any conclusion whatever as to the condition of public sentiment here on the Irish policy of his Government. Any attempt of this kind is sure to be promptly resented in some quarter on this side of the water, and the mere discussion of the subject to discredit Mr. Chamberlain's mission in a greater or less degree. Those in this country who are most anxious for the settlement of the fisheries question have been most careful to ignore Mr. Chamberlain's place in British politics, and to treat him simply as a messenger of peace and good-will, to be heard and treated with solely on his own merits and the merits of the special work intrusted to his hands. So do not let us have any insinuations or intimations that the welcome accorded him indicates what the American people think of the Coercion Bill, or the rent question, or O'Brien's imprisonment, or any other British topic. If anything of this kind comes over the water, there will be a row which will ruin the negotiations.

The reception given Sullivan in England is another illustration of the immense popularity of "sport" of every description in that country, and especially of everything of an amusing or entertaining kind that comes from America. The reception given to "Buffalo Bill" would hardly have been possible anywhere else. Sullivan's will probably not equal it, because he looks rather too much of a brute to be taken up by the ladies; but if he enjoys the hospitality of the Prince of Wales, as he is said to have done, or be about to do, there is no knowing what may happen. Fordham, the jockey, who recently died, had almost as fine a funeral as Fred Archer, the other jockey, who died a year ago, and was in as comfortable circumstances. Both of them had as much space given to their mourning in the newspapers and public gossip as any statesman, except perhaps Gladstone or Bright, would have. This tendency to the worship of the physical, or carnal, if any one likes the term better, is a very curious sign of the times. A recent writer in the *Saturday Review* treated it as a distinct indication of moral decay, and it certainly would be if other tendencies of a very different kind were not also very marked. The foul abuse heaped upon Gladstone by people to whom Buffalo Bill and Sullivan are honored guests is, however, a very curious phenomenon.

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SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, November 16, to TUESDAY, November 22, 1887, inclusive.]

DOMESTIC.

AT noon on November 19 the members of the British Fisheries Commission were formally presented to the President. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain and Sir Charles Tupper were introduced by Secretary Bayard, and Sir Lionel S. West performed the same duty for the other members of the party. No addresses were made, and the occasion was devoid of all formality.

The Fisheries Commissioners held their first meeting in Washington on November 21.

On November 17 the President gave to the press his letter accepting the resignation of Land-Commissioner Sparks. The Commissioner resigned in consequence of a disagreement between himself and the Secretary of the Interior.

Col. Glover Perin, Assistant Surgeon-General, has been placed upon the retired list.

On November 18 George L. Rives of this city was appointed First Assistant Secretary of State. He was born in New York in 1849, and was graduated at Columbia College and the University of Cambridge, England.

The Treasury Department has again had occasion to decide that a plaster cast intended to be used as a model for the construction of a monument is entitled to free entry.

The Secretary of the Treasury has awarded a gold life-saving medal to Capt. William Babb, and a silver one to each of his crew of six men, of Goderich, Ontario, for services rendered in saving the crew of the American schooner *A. C. Maxwell*, December 9, 1885.

Captain Bunce, of the new United States ship *Atlanta*, made a report to the Navy Department on the 18th in which he condemns the vessel as unseaworthy and worthless in its present condition.

At a special meeting of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution on November 18, Prof. S. P. Langley was elected Secretary of the Institution to succeed the late Prof. S. F. Baird. Prof. Langley was born in Roxbury, Mass., on August 22, 1834. In 1865 he entered the Harvard College Observatory as assistant, and was subsequently appointed assistant professor of mathematics in the United States Navy. In 1867 he took charge of the Allegheny Observatory near Pittsburgh. The uniform time service in the United States was instituted by him at the Allegheny Observatory in 1869. Prof. Langley has made a series of valuable researches in solar physics, the results of which have been published from time to time. In October, 1878, he announced his discovery of the "great A" group of the solar spectrum. He participated in the expedition sent out by the United States Coast Survey to observe the total eclipse of 1869.

The National Republican Committee will meet in Washington soon after the meeting of Congress to issue a call for the National Convention of that party next year.

Ex-Secretary Boutwell is quoted as saying that if the Republicans of New York would settle their differences and unite upon Mr. Conkling for their candidate for President, no candidate could be named who would be as likely to carry the Empire State as he.

An official list of the members of the next Federal House of Representatives shows that it will consist of 168 Democrats, 153 Republicans, and 4 Independents. The Independents are Anderson of Iowa, Nichols of North Carolina, Hopkins of Virginia, and Smith of Wisconsin.

United States Marshal Dyer, recently appointed receiver of a certain property belonging to the Mormon Church, on November 16 made a demand for the Temple Block in Salt Lake City, on which stand the Mormon Temple, Assembly Hall, and the Tabernacle. He also took possession of the parsonage, known as the Guard House, and the Church Historian's office, leaving men in charge.

Gen. F. M. Armstrong, Indian Inspector, who has been on the Crow Reservation since the trouble began which culminated in the death of Sword-Bearer, says that most of the mischief which led to the outbreak was done last spring, when Sitting Bull, with a party of Sioux warriors numbering about one hundred, went to the Crow Reservation, and, pitching his camp within almost a stone's throw of the Custer monument, began to harangue the Crows. He made a strong impression on the young men of the latter tribe, especially when he began to recount his exploits in his contests with the whites.

A résumé of the fisheries business for the year ending October, 1887, shows that the total number of vessels owned in the Gloucester District is 474, with a tonnage of 30,624, against 487 vessels last year, with a tonnage of 30,583. Seventeen vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 1,137 have been lost, with 127 men, who leave 60 widows and 61 fatherless children.

At the close of the meeting of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, in Nashville, this week, banners were presented to State Unions which showed the largest increase of numbers during the year. The States which carried off the prizes are Indiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Delaware, Maryland, Tennessee, Minnesota, Michigan, and New Mexico.

On November 18, Gov. Hill appointed two women, Mrs. Charlotte S. Williams of Buffalo and Mrs. Caroline B. Stoddard of Rochester, to the Board of Managers of the State Insane Asylum in Buffalo.

On November 18, Gov. Hill appointed Michael Rickard of Utica Railroad Commissioner in place of John D. Kernan, resigned. Mr. Rickard is and has been for over thirty years in the employ of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, in the mechanical department. On the day he was appointed he left his locomotive and went to the Capitol to take the oath of office.

On November 16 Mayor Hewitt appointed the following School Commissioners for the terms of three years, beginning on January 1, 1888: Jacob D. Vermilye, J. Edward Simmons, W. J. Welch, De Witt J. Seligman, Robert M. Gallaway, Charles L. Holt, and Frederick W. Devoe.

On November 19 Mayor Hewitt appointed a committee of citizens to coöperate with the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and the New York Historical Society in preparing for the celebration of the centennial of the inauguration of George Washington as first President of the United States. The Mayor's committee consists of Daniel F. Tiemann, Smith Ely, jr., Edward Cooper, William H. Wickham, Franklin Edson, William R. Grace, Allan Campbell, Charles P. Daly, Stuyvesant Fish, Elbridge T. Gerry, William G. Hamilton, Gouverneur Morris, and Philip Schuyler.

The New Brunswick Historical Society has decided to celebrate the centenary of the adoption of the Constitution by New Jersey with a public meeting, at which Dr. Austin Scott and Dr. Hammond, President of the State Historical Society, will deliver addresses.

Mayor Cleveland of Jersey City has vetoed a resolution of the Board of Public Works of that city giving the Pennsylvania Railroad Company authority to elevate its tracks within the city limits.

The managers of the Northern Pacific Railroad have refused to recognize the authority of the Railroad Commission of Minnesota, on the ground that, having its charters from Congress, it is not amenable to State control.

The round-house and other buildings of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad at Ludlow, opposite Cincinnati, were destroyed by fire on November 17. Eight locomotives and 150 cars were ruined.

It is authoritatively said that at a recent conference of the Bessemer steel-rail manufacturers it was decided to suspend operations for an indefinite period, the suspension to take place probably about the first of December. The low price for rails is assigned as the cause for the shut-down.

A boycott was instituted on November 18 against the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company by all the local assemblies of the Knights of Labor in the Lehigh and Schuylkill anthracite regions, because of its connection with coal-producing corporations against which a strike is in operation.

At a convention of the Union Labor party of Wisconsin, held in Fond du Lac on November 18, a resolution sympathizing with the late Chicago Anarchists was nearly unanimously rejected.

Herr Most, the leader of the Anarchists in New York, was arrested on November 17 for uttering incendiary language in a speech a day or two before, an indictment having been found against him.

The library of the New York Law Institute in the Post-office building was reopened on November 19, after having been closed since July.

The anonymous offer of $100,000 to go towards enlarging the scope of the New York Historical Society, on condition that a further sum of $300,000 be obtained not later than the close of the current year, has been modified by reducing the sum to be raised to $150,000 and extending the time one year.

Robert Bonner announces in this week's New York *Ledger* that he has retired from the management of that paper. The property and business he turns over absolutely to his three sons.

All the members of the Sophomore Class of Williams College who were engaged in the alleged hazing of George Choate have made a statement that no violence was used upon the young man, and that he was subjected to no treatment that could cause him physical injury. They invite Mr. Joseph H. Choate, the young man's father, to meet them and cross-question them upon their statement of the facts in the case.

The annual exhibition of the National Academy of Design opened on November 21. There are 412 pictures on exhibition this year.

The bronze statue to the memory of John C. Breckinridge was unveiled at Lexington, Ky., on November 16, with elaborate ceremonies.

Mr. Edison says he will have 500 of his perfected phonographs ready for the market by the last of January. Those who have seen the instrument pronounce it practicable for the taking, retaining and reproducing of articulate speech.

The contractor who is building the new State-house in Austin, Texas, has entered a formal protest against going on with the work of erecting the tower, on the ground that the architect's design calls for a superstructure too heavy for the foundation.

The coroner's jury in the case of the falling of the school building in East One Hundred and Fifteenth Street in New York on October 17, whereby seven persons were killed, rendered a verdict on November 19 attributing the disaster to faulty construction of the house. The verdict held Rev. Father Kirner, who was one of the victims, primarily responsible.

On the night of November 16 the Hotel Saratoga, in Chicago, was burned. The guests escaped in their night clothing.

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At ten o'clock on Sunday night, November 20, the buildings at Bridgeport, Conn., in which P. T. Barnum had for many years kept his exhibition animals and the other accessories of his show, were totally destroyed by fire. A few of the animals escaped, but those in the central part of the main building all perished. They were zebras, ibexes, tapirs, wolves, hyenas, panthers, great serpents, and the like. Only four of the elephants were lost. One of them was known as the former consort of the famous Jumbo, who was killed in a railroad accident a few years ago. One of the elephants that escaped the fire wandered off into deep water and was drowned. The largest of the lions was rescued from the fire only to be shot and killed. The loss is estimated to be about $150,000.

The passengers of the ship *Alesia*, who had been detained at Quarantine for nearly two months on account of cholera, were landed in New York on November 17.

The shooting of William Shilling by Robert McCreary, son of ex-Gov. McCreary, at Richmond, Ky., last week, has been officially declared to have been done in self-defence.

John Chandler died in Concord, N. H., on November 16, at the age of 103.

Alfred A. Cohen, the attorney for the Central Pacific Railroad Company, died on a Union Pacific train between Sidney and Cheyenne on November 16. He was ill when he left New York.

George M. Gill, aged eighty-five, the oldest and for years one of the most prominent lawyers of Baltimore, died suddenly in his office on November 18.

The Rev. Dr. Lucius H. King, pastor of the Forty-fourth Street Methodist Episcopal Church of this city, died on November 18.

Emma Lazarus, the well-known poetess, translator, and general writer for the magazines, died in this city on November 19, after a long illness.

FOREIGN.

Soon after the French Chamber met on November 19, the Extreme Left moved an interpellation of the Government on the question of its domestic policy. A motion was made by the Ministry to postpone the debate. This motion was rejected by a vote of 328 to 242. Prime Minister Rouvier immediately announced the resignation of the Cabinet.

The Czar and Czarina of Russia arrived in Berlin at 11 o'clock on November 18. The Czar, clad in an elegant Russian uniform, drove with Prince William of Prussia through the streets from the railway station in an open carriage drawn by four horses. The Czarina followed in a closed carriage, accompanied by the Princess Victoria. The popular welcome to the distinguished guests was hearty, but there were no decorations on the buildings along their route through the city. Emperor William received them at the residence of the Russian Ambassador, and at a later hour the Czar returned his visit at the imperial palace. At noon a banquet was given in honor of the Czar. The gala performance, which originally formed a part of the programme of festivities, was dispensed with.

There is no permanent improvement in the health of the Crown Prince of Germany The throat difficulty from which he has for some time suffered does not yield to treatment except to give the patient occasional relief.

A statistical publication issued by the German Government deals with the time of year at which crimes are committed. The year taken is 1883, and of the 390,760 crimes of all kinds committed then, it is possible to fix the month of their occurrence in 317,404 cases. Dividing the year into four seasons—winter comprising December, January, and February; spring comprising March, April, and May; summer, June, July and August; and autumn, September, October, and November — it is found that 80,073 crimes fall to winter, 73,799 to spring, 81,262 to summer, and 82,270 to autumn. Thus spring is the most favorable season for public morality, and autumn the most unfavorable. As to the character of the crimes committed, it is found that in 1883 the offences against State, religion, and public order numbered 98 daily in winter, 93 in spring, 103 in summer, and 106 in autumn. Here summer far exceeded winter, as it did also in crimes with which violence and threats against officials, etc., were connected, the number for winter being 95 daily, and for summer 107. Of crimes against the person 82 fell to winter daily, 90 to spring, 102 to summer, and 108 to autumn; of crimes against morality 60 fell to winter and 146 to summer; of offences taking the character of slander 60 fell to winter and 119 to summer; and of assaults 158 fell to winter and 243 to summer. It would therefore appear that temperature has a great deal to do with inclination to crime. The daily number of petty robberies was 84 in summer and 122 in winter; of serious robberies 92 in summer and 115 in winter; while the cases of receiving stolen goods numbered 77 daily in summer and 132 in winter. The relation borne by offences against property was as follows: Summer 101 daily, autumn 102, winter 96.

Joseph Chamberlain's speech at the Chamber of Commerce dinner in New York was the subject of much favorable comment from the Gladstonian as well as the Unionist press in London.

Mr. Gladstone, in a letter, says that the Mitchelstown shooting and the arrest of Mr. Wilfrid Blunt had no connection with the crimes contemplated under the Coercion Act, and therefore the Government's action was illegal.

Mr. Gladstone is expected to spend the winter in the southern part of France.

Mr. Parnell has written a letter to a news agency stating that his health is slowly but steadily improving.

While the popular vote, so to call it, for the Lord Rectorship of the University of Glasgow stood 867 for Lord Rosebery and 845 for Lord Lytton, there was a tie of the national vote, two to two. The Chancellor of the University, the Earl of Stair, having the casting vote, gave Lord Lytton the preference and elected him.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff has accepted the Persian Embassy.

Maj.-Gen. Sir Frederick Middleton has retired from the British Army with the rank of Lieutenant-General. He has received a private letter from the Duke of Cambridge, Commander-in-Chief, complimenting him upon his able direction of the Canadian militia.

The Princess of Wales and her children returned to England on November 19, after a long visit to Denmark.

Lord Wolverton died on November 18.

Gen. Valentine Baker, who, in 1875, while holding the appointment of Assistant Quartermaster-General at Aldershot, was compelled to leave the service on account of a misdemeanor, is dead. He was fifty-seven years old. His disease was fever, contracted at Port Said, while proceeding by steamer to Cairo.

Lord Tennyson has written a letter to Walt Whitman in which he says: "I thank you for your kind thought of me. I value your photograph, and much wish I could see not only the sun picture, but also the living original. May you still live and flourish for many years. The coming year should give new life to every American who has breathed the breath of that soul which inspired the great founders of the American Constitution, whose work you are to celebrate. Truly the mother country, pondering this, may feel that, how much soever the daughter owes her, she, the mother, has nevertheless something to learn from the daughter. Especially I would note the care taken to guard the noble Constitution from rash and unwise innovators."

London *Truth* says: "Mr. Pearsall Smith's suggestion for a copyright treaty with the United States is a most sensible one. Heretofore we have negotiated not so much for our authors as for our publishers. Mr. Smith proposes that we should ask the United States to assent to English authors being allowed a royalty on their works when published in America, with the same reciprocal advantage to American authors here. If agreed to, there would be no monopoly. Fifty American publishers might issue a work, and compete with each other in cheap editions, but the English author would get 10 per cent. upon the retail price of every copy sold. This would be paying by results in its most reasonable form. Mr. Smith's plan for insuring that the author would get his royalty is an exceedingly clever one."

The Royal Clyde Yacht Club has withdrawn its challenge for the *America's* cup, on the ground that the conditions of the new deed of gift are unjust and unsportsmanlike.

The Glasgow yachtsmen have united to give a prize, value £1,000, to be sailed for by yachts of all nations on the Clyde on the occasion of their annual regatta in July.

On November 19 the steamer *W. A. Scholten* left Rotterdam for New York, having on board very few saloon passengers, but about 180 in the steerage, and steamed towards the Straits of Dover in a fog. At ten o'clock that night, a few miles from the Admiralty pier at Dover, the *Rosa Mary*, a small screw steamer of Hartlepool, was at anchor, when the *Scholten*, running at low speed, ran into her, striking her on the port bow. The *Scholten* sank within twenty minutes after the collision, and it is estimated that about 130 lives were lost.

News received in Brussels on November 16 from the Congo was to the effect that Tippu Tib had failed to keep his promise to reinforce Stanley at Yambuya. It was also rumored that there had been fighting between the natives and the explorer, and that the rear guard of the latter had been cut off.

The Royal Labor Commission of Canada has decided to commence taking evidence in Toronto this week. From there the Commission will proceed to Hamilton, St. Catharines, Windsor, London, and Stratford. The following subjects will be inquired into: The effects of organized labor upon the working classes, strikes and their results, industrial schools, tenement-houses and workingmen's dwellings, factory laws, the proportionate profits of capital and labor, the cheapening of production by the use of machinery, Has the use of machinery lowered wages? the apprentice system, profit-sharing, iron-clad contracts, conspiracy laws and black-lists, convict labor, child and female labor, immigration, hours of labor and rates of wages, employers' liability, coöperation in manufacturing and distributing, arbitration, foreign contract labor, land and other rents, wages in Canada compared with those in Great Britain and the United States, and Sunday labor.

The Central Bank of Toronto suspended on November 16.

A division took place in the annual meeting of the International Base-Ball League in Toronto on November 16. The delegates from Toronto, Syracuse, Rochester and Hamilton seceded and organized a new league.

The contract between the Manitoba Government and the contractor for the completion of the Red River Valley Railroad has been ratified. The province is to endorse bonds to the amount of $550,000 for the company until the road is completed and has been in operation for six months.

All export duties imposed by the Argentine Republic will be abolished on January 1, 1888.

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THE RIGHT OF MEETING IN PUBLIC SQUARES.

We have received from Mr. L. F. Austin, an English Liberal, a remonstrance against our comments on the suppression of the Trafalgar Square meeting on Sunday week. The general propositions laid down by Mr. Austin are sound, but it is true also that the public authorities must in every case take into consideration the surroundings and accompaniments of a public parade and a public meeting. They must see to it that the public peace is not disturbed. In order to judge whether it is likely to be disturbed, they must give heed to the teachings of recent experience as well as to particular present information. They may make mistakes, but in a free government they do so at the peril of being ousted. In other words, they must have discretion to prevent what appears to them likely to bring on tumult and disorder, using this discretion subject to the corrective power of public opinion. All this is in entire accord with Anglo-Saxon ideas and institutions. Discretion must be lodged somewhere, else there would be no power to stop another Hyndman procession and to prevent a new raid of the shop-windows in Piccadilly. If the London authorities exercised this discretion wrongly, it is for the Radical clubs and party to show this fact in Parliament, in the press, and on the platform, and to enforce their conclusions at the ballot-box. There is not the least danger that the British public will side with functionaries who cannot show good reasons for what they have done. If British public opinion is not to be depended upon, then indeed there is no help for this alleged wrong, or for any other.

Everything depends upon the facts in the case. An Orange procession might march through the streets of an American city without causing any disturbance, but it might also lead to riot, bloodshed, and conflagration. If the public authorities had reason to believe that the latter result would follow, it would be their duty (if they had the legal power) to prevent the procession from marching at all, since public thoroughfares are not maintained to vindicate freedom of opinion, but to promote convenience of movement and traffic. Mr. Gladstone evidently considers that the London police authorities were moved by other than partisan motives when they prevented the assembling in Trafalgar Square. If, as appears, he took into consideration not only the "sinews of Sunday's assemblage," the members of Radical clubs, but also the moppings of the street, the authorities were justified in doing so, and would have been recreant to their trust if they had not. If sincere considerations of the public safety entered into their dispositions, then, although they may have erred in judgment, they cannot be accused of a purpose to infringe the rights of political discussion.

The question whether the Crown can or ought to have any such "property" in a public square as to be able to forbid its use as a public meeting-ground is certainly, it seems to us, one to be settled in Parliament or in the courts. We sympathize thoroughly with those Englishmen who think there ought to be no such "property" either in the Crown or anybody else, that it ought not to be in anybody's power to deny arbitrarily, and out of his own head, on the ground that he may do what he likes with his own, the use of a public square or street in a large city to any body of citizens. But surely no civilized man ought to say that this is a matter to be settled by fighting with sticks and stones. Nothing can be easier than to bring up in the courts the validity of the Crown's title to Trafalgar Square. If the decision is adverse to the Radical claim, certainly the remedy is to be sought by legislation, and not by rioting.

Moreover, during the past few months the square has apparently been given up to frequent meetings and processions, all of them calculated to alarm people living or carrying on business in the immediate neighborhood. Is it fair to allow any square or public place to be used in this way, causing a marked depreciation in the value of surrounding property, without giving the owners compensation? We think not. Everybody who lives around Union Square in this city, for instance, is prepared for occasional orderly meetings in that open space. But suppose there were to be one every week ending in free fights and the issuing forth of marauding parties, and the police were to declare that there was no remedy for this—that it was an inevitable concomitant of free government, should we not be bound to indemnify the unfortunate property-owners who found their business ruined and their lives filled with terror?

Let us add that one has only to glance at the Tory journals in London to see how useful to them all disturbances all over the world are. Every row or riot that occurs, no matter where, is grist to their mill, and is made to bear in some manner or other on the Irish question. They made even the execution of the Anarchists in Chicago the other day a warning to the Gladstonians. Every mob in the London streets they treat as a justification of their Irish policy, as showing that the times call everywhere for the tightening of the bonds of authority and law. They are perfectly enchanted now whenever they hear of any shooting or hanging on a considerable scale. Consequently every Radical, as it seems to us, who fights with the police in the public streets about anything, strengthens their hands.

DECORATIONS.

The Paris scandal will probably do much towards sickening the French public with the "Legion of Honor," as something which, however well adapted to satisfy the cravings of French human nature, cannot be properly managed by a republican government. The "decoration" as a mark of distinction is a monarchical device. What it signified in the beginning, and in monarchical countries signifies to this day, is that the wearer has in some manner merited the special favor of the sovereign. It may mean more than this: it may mean that he has attained marked eminence in some field of human activity; but it means first and foremost, and may mean only, that the King or Emperor likes him, or at some time wished to gratify him. There are only three decorations in the world, we believe, which have to be won by actual achievement in war, the Victoria Cross in England, the Iron Cross in Germany, and the Cross of St. George in Russia. The man who wears one of these is sure to be a man who has performed some feat of skill or valor in the face of the enemy. It may be said of every one of them what *Punch* said of the Victoria Cross when it was first instituted:

> "Not in the toys themselves lies their ennobling power,
> But in the tales they tell of many a glorious hour,
> Of deeds in field or trench, of crumbling fortress held,
> When stoutest heart might blench and bravest hope be quell'd."

All other decorations are simply signs of the royal favor. The wearer may be a really illustrious man, but he may be utterly base or commonplace. The Order of the Garter in England has long been little else than a sign of high rank in the peerage, and is given as a compliment to nearly all foreign sovereigns. The Order of the Bath goes to nearly every military man who has seen any service or attained a certain grade, and is distributed more or less freely among civilians who have in some manner won the esteem of the court or distinguished themselves even slightly in connection with some public work or fête. The same thing may be said of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, which is reserved for thriving or useful people from the colonies.

The Legion of Honor was founded by the first Napoleon, and took the place of the old Order of the Holy Ghost, which was the chief reward of military merit under the Bourbon monarchy. The new order, although it was, under the First Empire, mainly a military distinction, was intended to be, and always has been, also a reward of civil merit. During the Napoleonic wars, however, when the whole force of France, both physical and mental, was given to preparation for the battlefield, it rewarded little else than martial prowess. It was the

> "—— radiant and adored deceit
> Which millions rushed in arms to greet."

Afterwards, as the times grew more peaceful, and French society became more industrial, it was distributed with increasing lavishness among civilians of nearly every calling. Even under the Second Empire it was so widely diffused that it was beginning to be said that in almost any company of Frenchmen it was a distinction not to have it. It was given for all sorts of reasons, and for no reason at all, except that the Emperor chose to honor somebody. It has been increasingly sought after ever since Louis Philippe's day by manufacturers, as an advertisement for their wares, by doctors, dentists, inventors, and, in fact, everybody who had the smallest reason for thinking himself in any way off the common. The red rosette in his buttonhole marked him as something in some degree different from his neighbors. Even if he was not known to have earned it by some

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achievement, it showed that he had in some manner secured the notice and condescension of the King or Emperor, and this was in itself a distinction. A monarchy is based on social inequality, and part of the monarchical business is the maintenance of inequalities among the people below the throne. This is what Blackstone means when he calls the King "the fountain of honor." As the fountain of honor, the sovereign is charged with the duty of raising some of his subjects above their fellows by outward and visible signs of his esteem; and as the fountain of honor, he is not bound to give reasons for honoring some more than others. His favor is an honor in itself, behind which it is indecent or disrespectful to go in search of reasons.

When the Republic came in, the Legion of Honor remained, but the proper machinery for the distribution of the cross was gone. There was no fountain of honor left—nobody whose mere dictum was accepted as a sufficient warrant for the bestowal of a decoration. Moreover, in a democratic republic all distinctions coming from the Government rapidly become either odious, or so common that they cease to be distinctions. Americans would probably have abolished the Legion of Honor after the Empire was overturned, as a childish device for rewarding merit. The French are not quite as democratic as that, but they have a great passion for equality. They kept the Order, but they think that everybody ought to have it. It is safe to say that one-half the male population of France to-day feel wronged because they are not decorated; not that they think they deserve it, but they think they deserve it as well as other people whom they see wearing it. There is nobody now whose judgment in the bestowal of it is considered final and unimpeachable. It is obtained from the minister of the day by "pressure" or intrigue, like petty places in the public offices. The worst of it is, however, now, that there is "money in it." For a manufacturer, or a shopkeeper with a patent shirt bosom, or the inventor of a new plough or clothes-wringer, it acts as an advertisement the like of which does not exist. It not only raises him above his neighbors and makes their wives feel badly, but it helps him to sell his goods. Consequently, the number of people who desire it has increased enormously, and the number who are ready to pay for it has increased enormously also, and hence "the traffic in decorations" which is to-day convulsing French society, and almost menacing the very existence of the Republic.

How extensive this traffic has been during the last fifteen years of course nobody knows. There is, however, much reason to believe that the recent revelations only touch the very surface of the sore. An abuse like this must have gone far and enjoyed much impunity and been very profitable, when general officers of high rank in a military nation are found engaged in it, and the very palace of the President of the Republic is found to be one of the sources whence the corruption flows. The effect of the scandal in lowering the value of the cross is well illustrated by a police case recently reported in one of the Paris papers. A wealthy manufacturer, who was erecting a house, quarrelled with his architect, and in the altercation which followed warned him that he was not the "premier venu," or an ordinary person; that he was a decorated man and not to be treated lightly. To this the architect sneeringly replied that doubtless he bought his decoration like the rest. The manufacturer thereupon seized him by the throat, and they rolled on the ground in a frantic struggle until the police arrived. Such occurrences will doubtless now be frequent. Every wearer of a rosette who has not performed some great feat will be looked on with suspicion, and will find his distinction do him least good when he most needs it. It will thus be less sought after, and the way prepared for its final abolition as something which democracy has found useless, or impossible to manage.

WORKINGMEN'S INSURANCE IN GERMANY.

THE German legislation for the insurance of workmen against sickness and accident (of which the details are summarized in the current number of the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*) is in full working operation, and materials are accumulating for the judgment of its effects. It will be a long time before final judgment can be pronounced on so vast and complicated a scheme of social reform, beyond doubt the most remarkable experiment of the kind in this century, perhaps in any century. But it is worth while to note from time to time what we can of its operation.

One thing is clear: the administration of the acts is carried on in a spirit friendly to the workingmen; indeed, with a strong bias in their favor. Some such spirit must be shown if the direct practical object of Bismarck—a check to the rising tide of discontent and socialism—is to be attained. Yet there are indications that the mark has been overshot. Curious instances of this appear in the award of the indemnities which the act for insurance against accident secures to the workman. The principles on which these awards are to be made are fixed by the Imperial Insurance Bureau, which is the court of last resort in regard to them. It has been held by the Bureau that indemnities are to be paid not only for accidents occurring from causes connected directly with a business, but for all accidents that happen in it. Thus, when a mason was struck by lightning, his widow was granted an indemnity from the association of master masons, though his work had led in no way to the accident. In another case a factory hand amused himself, in violation of express orders, by gymnastics on a high partition, and had a bad fall and permanent injury. His employers were compelled to pay him a pension because the accident had occurred in the business; and this although the statute expressly refuses indemnity to persons who bring about an injury "intentionally." It must be remembered that the means for paying these indemnities come entirely from employers' contributions, and are supposed to provide against accidents occurring in the course of business. The consequence of this extension of the employers' liability, making them responsible, as it does, for injuries which they cannot possibly prevent, has been that in many factories the practice is adopted of making a medical examination of all applicants for employment, and of rejecting all who are weak and more likely to meet with any sort of accident. Still another curious decision by the Imperial Insurance Bureau is to the effect that it is immaterial, as regards indemnity, whether the particular person injured has lost in fact any of his earning power. A workman is injured, say, loses a finger or an arm, and gets a pension for partial disability from the employers' association. Then he finds employment elsewhere, and, perhaps, earns more than before the accident; yet it is held the pension must always be paid him. In fact, the Bureau, at its first public session, declared expressly that it would administer the act in a "fatherly spirit," since, after all, the legislation was but "the practical application of the golden rule."

In another aspect experience has shown that there are difficulties, not unforeseen, yet grave, in carrying out such paternal legislation. The danger of simulation of illness and injury by workmen who are to be benefited is obvious, and has not failed to show itself, notwithstanding an endeavor to secure strict medical counsel. It was hoped that some check to pretended injury would be found in the representation of workmen in the boards which are courts of appeal on the indemnities in case of accident; but it is not yet clear how far the arrangement has had the desired result. Beyond doubt frauds of this kind are not infrequent, as is shown both by scattered bits of testimony and by the statistics of the Berlin sick associations. Of these associations some have a very large membership and some a comparatively small membership. Obviously the check to fraud can be applied more effectively in the smaller bodies; and to this circumstance must be ascribed the comparatively small percentage of sickness for which their members get aid. The average number of days of sickness was about five per member per year for smaller associations, but was 6.8 days for those having between 5,000 and 16,000 members, and was as high as eight days in the largest body of all, which has 56,000 members.

In the same sense is a striking passage in the annual report of one of the *Berufsgenossenschaften* by which insurance against accident is carried. This body, which insures iron and steel workers in northeastern Germany, says: "We have had to face the regrettable experience that men who have received a pension for partial disability, and who, though unable to pursue their former calling, might do other work, seem to lose the wish and the will to turn to an occupation for which they are still qualified. Sure of a pension, however small, they gradually become unfitted by constant idleness for any work at all, and are entirely demoralized. Then the law leaves no course open to

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the *Berufsgenossenschaft* except to consider them totally disabled, and to give them the maximum pension prescribed for total disability."

Facts of this kind point to the fundamental difficulty which must be faced by this scheme, and by all schemes which try to force an improvement in his condition on the average manual laborer. They may demoralize him, and make him in the end materially also worse off than he was before. In the language of the economists, they tend to remove the preventive checks to population and to lower the standard of living. It is by no means certain that the present German experiment will have this melancholy outcome—every one must hope that it may not; but it is here that the scheme has its weakest point. The higher the standard of self-restraint and self-help already is in a people, the more safely may humane aid be extended to them. Here, as so often in social phenomena, cause and effect interact. Those who see in the present high birth-rate and comparatively high death-rate of Germany a sign of a lack of providence in its population, will watch critically the slow development of the ultimate effect of the present insurance legislation.

A writer in the last issue of the *Jahrbuch für Gesetzgebung* has put in the plea that these measures are not really opposed to habits of self-restraint or inconsistent with self-help. They give no guarantee of work, and make no provision for the laborer who is out of work. The unaided struggle for existence remains, and continues to exercise its bracing effect. So much is undoubtedly true; and it is conceivable that insurance against occasional bitter need, even though not provided from the workmen's initiative, may raise rather than demoralize his character. But the facts to which reference was made in the preceding paragraphs show that we cannot be confident of the better effect, and that a long time must pass before the final result becomes clear.

MOMMSEN.

On the thirtieth of this month the historian Mommsen will celebrate a double anniversary—his seventieth birthday, and the completion of the thirtieth year of his professorship at Berlin. His countrymen, always felicitous in celebrations of this sort, will be prepared to render him due honor; among other things, a bust of him by Begas is to be presented to him. Other nations will not be behindhand in congratulations and homage to the man who has done more than any other living person to unlock the treasures of the past and make them the possession of the present generation.

It is hardly too much to say that our knowledge of the history of Rome, in everything but its most superficial facts, we owe to Theodor Mommsen. This we say without disparagement to the great name of Niebuhr, a man of equal genius, of equally profound and extensive scholarship, and who did a work without which that of Mommsen would have been impossible. Niebuhr cleared the ground for the master-builder, by putting an end for ever to the implicit faith which had until then prevailed in the traditionary history of Rome. His work was critical and destructive—he showed clearly what Roman history was not; but when it came to determining what it was, he necessarily failed, partly because the materials were inadequate, partly because it was not yet possible to see them in their true relation to each other. A generation had to pass in further investigation, criticism, and attempts at reconstruction on the basis of Niebuhr's work, before the early history of Rome could be seen in its true light. The scholars who performed this rather thankless task, who filled the gaps between Niebuhr and Mommsen—Göttling, Bekker, Walter, Huschke, Rubino, and others—rendered a great service to historical science, but, for the most part, rather in special points of detail than in fundamental principles. Moreover, all of them were antiquarians rather than historians. Rubino, indeed, one of the most philosophical and logical minds that have ever devoted themselves to historical study, developed a theory of the early Roman State which is essentially that upon which Mommsen has constructed his history; the distinguished historian is never slow to acknowledge his indebtedness to the obscure Marburg professor. But the work which remained to be done could be accomplished only by one who was at once an antiquarian like Bekker, a philosophical thinker like Rubino, and a man of constructive historical imagination.

It is the combination of these three qualities that has made Mommsen the foremost historian of his time, and enabled him to accomplish a work which will never have to be done over again. For we have no hesitation in saying, not that he is right in every particular, but that the conception of the history of Rome which he has made familiar will hold its place as the correct one. What this conception is it would take too long to define in its completeness; but perhaps the best tribute we can render to the great man is to point out its leading features—those in which his genius is most conspicuously seen.

In the busy field of scholarship it is rash to assert for any individual worker absolute originality in any particular part of his work. The merit of each consists largely in the skilful use of the results reached by others. But we think we are not wrong in claiming for Mommsen the credit of having been the first to apply to historical science the comparative method which had just been elaborated in the field of philology. Just here we find an especially interesting point of comparison with Niebuhr, for whom the comparative method was impossible, because, when he wrote, the science of comparative philology did not exist. One of Niebuhr's most plausible attempts at reconstruction—his famous Pelasgian theory—could never have been advanced after the relations of the Indo-European languages to one another had become established. Where Niebuhr begins with this fascinating but unsound theory, Mommsen opens with a discussion of the stages in civilization reached by the Italian nations and their ancestors at successive periods; his theory being based upon a comparison of languages somewhat similar to that upon which Niebuhr founded his hypothesis. These paragraphs may seem trite and inadequate at the present day; but they were the first attempt to arrive at historical truth by this method, and they display a degree of sobriety as well as ingenuity which are unusual in discussions of this kind.

The early institutions of Rome are represented by Mommsen from the point of view of primitive tribal society—a point of view familiar enough now, but then novel and imperfectly developed. If it may be said that it is just in these early institutions that Mommsen's theory has been most modified by later investigations, and just this part of his work that has come nearest to being superseded, it must not be forgotten that he was the pioneer in this field too, and that the subsequent advance has been made upon the lines traced by him. The general outlines of the political system firmly sketched in his first book remain unaltered, and it would be hard to give the substance of this matter more clearly and correctly than it is given there. The most that could be done would be to supplement it in certain respects and modify some details.

One theory of Mommsen's in relation to the foundation of Rome excited great discussion at the time of its appearance, and was very generally rejected, but is now tacitly assumed as a matter of course—the early commercial activity of Rome. It was upon this fact, first brought out by Mommsen, that Mr. Goldwin Smith's admirable article a few years ago in the *Contemporary Review* was based, and it forms the controlling idea in the treatment of the early Republic by Nitzsch, the writer who has, perhaps, more than any other supplemented Mommsen for this period.

The theories which we have spoken of above were presented in his first edition (in 1854) with as much fulness and definiteness as in the enlarged work familiar to the readers of the present day. When it comes to the sketch of the political constitution of the Monarchy and early Republic, on the other hand, we note a marked change. At first Mommsen was—as who at that time could fail to be?—very much under the influence of Niebuhr. But as the subject dwelt in his mind, he came by degrees to depart more and more from Niebuhr's view, and, after some slight modifications in successive editions, the fourth edition (1864) may almost be said to represent a revolution in the theory of Roman history. The publication of the fourth edition was the turning-point in his work as an historian. Since that time his attention has chiefly been given to the period of the Empire, and his labors have been principally in the nature of preparation for the continuation of his history. The successive editions of the published work have shown very little change.

It is, we suppose, generally believed that Mommsen is the most revolutionary and arbitrary of all historians of Rome. But this opinion comes from the fact of his radical departure from Niebuhr's views, which had got possession of the field, especially in England, and might, at the time that Mommsen wrote, be fairly regarded as the accepted views. But, as a matter of fact, Mommsen is conservative in a high degree, and his theories of Roman history, more than those of any of his rivals, rest upon positive statements of the ancients themselves, and not upon pure hypothesis. "If we cannot accept this statement," he says somewhere—we quote from memory—"we may as well give up concerning ourselves with historical inquiry at all." It is generally believed, too, that he presents his novel theories bluntly and arbitrarily, without informing the reader of the authority upon which they rest or the reasons for his changes of opinion. It is true they are so presented in his history; but in his numerous essays and monographs—the most important of which have been collected in a volume, under the title, 'Römische Forschungen'—detailed and substantial arguments can be found by those who choose to study the subject. His readers may at any rate be assured that even his most radical and startling positions rest upon solid foundations. We may not accept them all, but much the largest part of them appear to us established beyond question.

Among the new views advanced in the fourth

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edition, along with the increased emphasis placed upon the aristocratic features of the primitive constitution (Mommsen associating in this himself distinctly with the school of Rubino) are the following: The admission of plebeians to the Senate upon the first establishment of the Republic, but with inferior powers, so that from this time the patrician Senators formed, as it were, a distinct body with special powers; the admission of the plebeians at the same date to the *curiæ;* and their tribal organization, on the basis of property in land, by the Publilian Law of 471. This last event he regards as the turning-point in their history; since now, for the first time, they formed a coherent, compact body, in which their natural leaders, the rich rural plebeians, occupied a controlling place. From this time begin their political aspirations and their contest for political equality. All of these views, familiar to students of the completed work, are not found, or are found only in the germ, in the earlier editions.

The most important feature of Mommsen's history of the early Republic is not, it is true, a novelty of the fourth edition, although it is more fully worked out there than elsewhere. It is, however, a stumbling-block to many, even at the present day; and for this reason, believing it, as we do, to rest upon a most profound insight into the character of early society and early institutions, we will draw especial attention to it. The early contests of the Roman Republic were not, he says, political, between patricians and plebeians, but social, between rich and poor. The plebeians had, as we have seen, obtained what, at the time, were considerable political privileges; but they inured to the benefit only of the rich and influential among them. But the poor, who were all plebeians, were exposed to great hardships and abuses, by reason of the severe military requirements and the harsh laws of debt. The tribunate was therefore designed, not to protect plebeians against patricians, but poor citizens against the abuses of magisterial power—for it is well known that patricians who needed it, as well as plebeians, could call upon the tribunes for assistance. It was not until the Publilian Law had reorganized the plebeiate upon a more aristocratic basis that it occurred to the rich plebeians to make of it an agency to obtain complete political equality.

In regard to the later history of the Republic, Mommsen is accused, perhaps rightly, of leaving too much to the side of power—of worshipping success. It is certain that he has a great, perhaps overweening, respect for efficiency; his heartiest contempt and condemnation are given to weak and inefficient governments. But he has a hearty respect, too, for free institutions—so they be genuine and really free. What he shows conclusively, in the last century of the Republic, is that there were no free institutions left—that it was a choice between different forms of despotism. The question of sympathy or approval hardly enters into consideration. It is the delineation of an historical situation, the narrative of an historical event. The Republic fell because it could no longer stand; and the Empire succeeded to it as a natural and necessary outgrowth of the situation.

The original publication, in three volumes, reached the fall of the Roman Republic, by the battle of Thapsus, in B. C. 46. Since that time—a period of thirty-six years—the author has been assiduously gathering materials and making preparations for its continuation, in the history of the Empire. It is true, the first ten years of this period were given in good part to revising the original work and bringing it to perfection; but even in those years in part, and since then chiefly, his work has lain in the field of the Empire—in the collection and editing of inscriptions, in countless special articles and treatises, and in the careful analysis of its fundamental principles of government. For it is plain that even in the most important single publication of these years—the 'Staatsrecht'—his chief interest was in the volume which treated of the Empire. When that was off his hands, he appears to have ceased to give attention to the subject; at least we see no signs of the important volume on the Senate and the assemblies. This long-continued and minute preparation is nothing new to him. His earliest treatise, on the Roman tribes, was a study of the most fundamental administrative institution of the Republic; his work on the South-Italian dialects gave him materials for the ethnology of Italy; his treatise on Roman coins helped elucidate at once the economic history and the municipal system of the Republic.

Mommsen is evidently approaching the term of his labors. The instalment of his history of the Empire published in 1885 as volume v. (known in the translation as 'The Provinces of the Roman Empire') is a sure sign that the history of the Empire itself is soon to follow. And in this work, standing, as it does, nominally as a fragment, but substantially as an independent treatise, the great historian has again done a work which will not need to be done over. His treatment of the Empire is as novel and original as that of the Republic, for he makes plain, what no one saw clearly before him, that the provinces were not a mere appendage of the city, but were the Empire itself. With the organization of the new Government, the history of Rome ends and that of the Empire begins. We call it the Roman Empire, but it was in truth the Empire of the World. Rome, from being a city-republic, sinks by degrees to the rank of a municipality—always supreme in dignity, always the seat of empire, but no longer the Empire itself.

It is not without some impatience and some apprehension that we see the historian reach his three-score years and ten, with his great task still unfinished. But every year that delays the work makes it more perfect. German scholars are a long-lived race, and if Ranke could be taken as a type, Mommsen would have still twenty working years before him. So we will trust and take courage.

THE QUEEN OF WESTPHALIA.—II.

PARIS, October 31.

WE left the Queen of Westphalia in Paris in November, 1809, with her husband, and expecting her father, the King of Würtemberg. Even in Paris she sent little notes to her father after his arrival; they were always written in French. On the point of going to the Trianon to see the Emperor, she writes: "All I know is that the Emperor *est d'une humeur de chien*, and that nobody can conceive why. I suppose you know the news of the day? The Queen of Holland has become the protectress of the houses of education for young girls." This is sarcastical, as Artemus Ward would say; the Queen of Holland was Queen Hortense—not exactly the best patron for young girls.

The King of Würtemberg returned to Stuttgart after a brief visit to Paris, and the Queen of Westphalia was again in Cassel in the beginning of 1810. She was obliged to return to France for the ceremonies of the marriage of Napoleon with Marie Louise. Before the arrival of the Archduchess, she writes:

"You cannot imagine, my dear father, how Napoleon is in love with his future wife; his head is turned to a degree which I could not have imagined and which I can hardly express. Every day he sends one of his chamberlains, charged, like Mercury, with the missives of Jupiter. . . . I will not enumerate to you all the presents which he is preparing; I will only tell you that he said to me that, when he was married, he would give peace to the world, 'and the rest of his time to Zaïre' [a quotation from Voltaire's 'Zaïre']. . . . To prove to you how much the Emperor is occupied with his future wife, I will tell you that he has sent for tailor and shoemaker, so as to be dressed as well as possible, and is learning to waltz. You and I could not have imagined such things."

Napoleon ordered all the pictures which represented his victories over Austria to be removed from the gallery of Diana at Compiègne, where the court waited for the Empress. Queen Catharine and her husband were invited to follow Napoleon and his new wife to Laeken, near Brussels, and to Antwerp. The Emperor inspected this great port and came back to Paris, seeing on his way Dunkirk, Calais, Boulogne. During this journey she became intimate with the Empress, and on her return to Paris was one of the witnesses of the catastrophe which ended a feast given by Schwarzenberg, the Austrian Ambassador. The ball-room was suddenly in flames; Jerome was able to save his wife; the Emperor took care of the Empress and dragged her out of the room.

The brothers whom Napoleon had placed on various thrones were treated by him as mere subjects. The King of Holland resigned. The King of Spain threatened to abdicate if Napoleon did not take his forces out of Catalonia and insisted on holding the left bank of the Ebro against the faith of treaties; to which the Emperor is said to have answered in these words: "If you cross the Pyrenees, I will have you shot." The Queen somewhat innocently adds: "It is to be hoped that such severe answers are exaggerated." The château of Cassel was completely destroyed by a fire in November, 1811, and the Queen could only save her diamonds. The King was nearly stifled by the smoke, and was found half dead. When he came to himself, he thought at first that there had been a conspiracy and an attempt to assassinate him. There was constant uneasiness in his mind. The Queen, speaking of her happiness, said: "Nothing could alter it if we lived in a more quiet time and in a docile country. You, my father, are infinitely more happy than we can be. You rule over the good Swabians attached to our house; our positions cannot be compared." The kingdoms of Napoleon were artificial creations, and Queen Catharine was better able to see this than anybody. The *grand écuyer* of the King was assassinated in December, 1811, by a man of the people. She was often afraid that Jerome himself would fall under the hand of an assassin.

A new war was preparing in 1812. "We are assured that Germany will not be its theatre, and in that case we shall remain quiet at Cassel." Jerome was summoned very unexpectedly on the 9th of March, and left the Queen; she did not even know why he was leaving her. "The most complete obscurity covers the present designs. The greatness of the preparations and the ignorance of the object puzzle the most clever politicians. . . . The soul gets really tired of this continual uncertainty, this impossibility of counting on to-morrow." Jerome made a journey incognito to Paris; Vandamme arrived at Cassel; Napoleon himself came to Dresden, and Queen Catharine had to go to that city. In the night of the 5th of April, Jerome left for Glogau, where he joined the army. During his absence his wife was made Regent of Westphalia. She asked Napoleon at Dresden: "Sire, will you not allow Jerome to come here, so that I can see him once more?" To

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which he answered: "Oh, oh, you will see me derange one of my generals for a woman." This contempt for women, whom he considered inferior beings, was one of the characteristics of Napoleon. It was not incompatible with customary politeness, and often with amiability; but, at times and on important occasions, it was always cynically shown.

King Jerome did not take part in the Russian campaign; he only went as far as Poland, and returned. It is curious to see the tone of the letters of the Queen of Westphalia during this terrible campaign. She speaks of the victories of Napoleon as "our victories"; the Westphalians and the Würtembergers being a part of the "grande armée." When the terrible retreat took place, the Emperor Napoleon wrote to his brother Jerome these short lines (December 23, 1812): "There exists nothing more of the Westphalian army in the *grande armée*." The long letter written January 18, 1813, from Paris by Napoleon to King Frederic of Würtemberg is a most extraordinary production. Napoleon maintains that even after the retreat of his army and its almost complete annihilation, he has elements enough to recommence the struggle, but the treason of York and his thirty thousand Prussians has changed the situation. He warns the sovereigns against the spirit of revolution. "It is not only against the foreign enemy that they must guard themselves; there is a more dangerous enemy, the spirit of revolt and of anarchy; the Emperor of Russia has made Stein a minister of State." He warns the King of Würtemberg against the excesses of the press, the preaching of the universities. Speaking of the enemies of his tyranny, he says: "To create what they call a Germany is the object they have in view, and they intend to attain it by anarchy and by revolution." He conjures the King to allow no communication between his subjects and Russia, and to break up all the associations which, under color of patriotism, have only disorder for their object. The reply of the King of Würtemberg is equally characteristic. It is humble and almost servile. He answers for the fidelity of his people, and speaks of his devotion to Napoleon, and of the great sacrifices in men and money he has made for him.

Queen Catharine left Cassel and went to Paris in March, 1813; the Russians were advancing in Germany; they were already in Berlin. Napoleon gave her the château of Meudon to live in, the same in which afterwards the Princess of Savoy, wife of Prince Napoleon, the son of Jerome Bonaparte, took up her residence. The situation was becoming more and more critical, but "the Emperor kept all his presence of mind and the firmness of his great character" (April 14, 1813). During the campaign of 1813, Queen Catharine remained at Meudon, by order of Napoleon, waiting for the issue of events. Her husband was in a very critical position, surrounded by enemies on all sides. Her father wrote to her that his army was nearly annihilated. In October, Jerome was obliged to flee from Cassel, "with the clothes he wore; all he possessed is in the hands of the enemy." "For a long time the King has prophesied to the Emperor just what has happened, and has warned him of the bad spirit of the country, which makes of this war a war of opinion and of fanaticisms, this once happy people being exasperated by the treatment which it has received."

Bavaria allied herself openly with Austria in October, and the King of Würtemberg, the most faithful ally of Napoleon, was obliged to write to him: "In this state of things, all that remains to me, that I may not become guilty towards my subjects, and in hopes of averting from them the horrors of war, is to ask for an armistice and for the neutrality of my States." The correspondence of the father and daughter became tragical. "I have," said she, "the consolation to think that you will remain quietly at home, as quietly as these dreadful circumstances permit, while my husband and I shall be wandering, not knowing what our fate will be. Surely I do not regret greatness; I will bear bravely what is personal to me, but as for the King, I cannot look without fear on the future. I see no ray of hope there." Queen Catharine understood well the situation; she felt that the work of Napoleon had been too artificial to last—the end was coming. There was nothing to expect for the King of Westphalia. Germany was aroused, and Catharine was conscious that the German nation would triumph. The kingdom of Westphalia had been formed with the concurrence of Russia and Prussia, but it had no historical basis. Jerome and Catharine remained some time in the château of Compiègne. The Queen was with child. She found the place too cold, too expensive also, and they retired to Stains, with a very small surrounding. Correspondence with her father had become very difficult, but she took every opportunity to write to him. After the abdication of the Emperor Napoleon at Fontainebleau, she writes from Blois: "We are awaiting here the events which will decide our fate." She says that her husband and herself are "sad victims of an unmeasured ambition, and of a monstrous policy." She hopes for some establishment in Germany. The King of Würtemberg begged her to come back to her own family; if he could not give her a crown, he could give her his affection and rest. He was in hopes to separate her from Jerome. He undertook the care of her daughter, and of the child which she was expecting, and he offered to attempt to obtain from the allies some compensation for King Jerome. "If King Jerome should refuse this proposition, or if my daughter should not accept it, I must declare here, with much regret, that I shall be unable to take in future any interest in their fate. I have charged Count Wintzingerode to bring this declaration to their knowledge" (April 11, 1814).

Queen Catharine refused positively to separate her fate from that of her husband; she understood her duties in a very different manner from Marie Louise. She stood by Jerome Bonaparte, and her resolution was irrevocable. She was of a proud character—she would not hear of any pension, any compensation in money for the kingdom of Westphalia which she had lost; she only wanted some small territory in Germany where she could remain independent. But the allied sovereigns had decided that none of the members of the Bonaparte family should receive any territorial compensations. "United to my husband by ties formed by politics, I will not recall the happiness which I have owed to him during seven years; but had he been the worst of husbands, if you will only consult, my father, what the true principles of honor dictate, you will see yourself that I cannot abandon him when he is unhappy, and especially as he is not the cause of his misfortune" (letter of April 17, 1814, written in Paris). In vain did her father write to her: "King Jerome will never be received by me: a Bonaparte shall never cross my frontiers." In vain did he write to her that Jerome had not been a model husband, that he had even been thinking of repudiating her, and had only been prevented from doing so by Napoleon: "It is to Napoleon alone that you owed, during the summer spent at Dresden, the continuance of your existence as his wife." She remained inflexible, and refused to return alone to her father.

Correspondence.

THE DANGER FROM SILVER.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: In your editorial of the 17th you say; "We ventured some time since to express the belief that the manufacture of silver dollars on Government account would not of itself change the standard of value from gold to silver. We have not seen any argument controverting that position."

As this proposition is put in a somewhat interrogative form, I will endeavor to answer it. The way in which legal-tender paper makes itself inconvertible is by inflating prices. Inflated prices mean increase of imports and decrease of exports, and a balance which must be settled in cash till the drain of specie brings on suspension. This result may be hastened by panic, as at the outbreak of our war, or may be postponed by borrowing abroad. Silver dollars act in precisely the same way—or perhaps it would be more correct to say silver certificates—because, as long as the question was only of coined dollars, the public would not use them, and they were piled up in the Treasury. But silver certificates are just as available as gold certificates, greenbacks, or bank notes. The time will never come "when the country will be saturated with them and can absorb no more," because, being all legal tender, they act indefinitely to raise prices, just as pouring water into a pail half full simply raises the level of the whole. If you will look at the returns of foreign trade at New York for the last three years, you will see that imports have steadily increased, and exports diminished in value, while it is notorious that a flood of our securities has been going abroad so great as to overcome this adverse balance, and even to bring gold this way. When this state of things shall be reversed, especially if the issue of silver certificates continues, is only a question of time. It may be postponed for some years, or it may be precipitated by some event like the collapse of the Panama Canal or the outbreak of war; but when it comes, the only thing which can save us from a change of basis from gold to silver will be a crash which will leave sad wrecks of individual fortunes.

In fact, the inflation which, if we take bank credits into account, has been going on since the war, has been prevented from producing its natural effect by an almost prohibitory tariff, which acts like an artificial dam to keep the lake of our currency at a higher level than could possibly otherwise be maintained; and it is this which makes meddling with the tariff, though a crying necessity, so extremely dangerous.

The session of Congress is at hand, and the country is looking to its result with deep anxiety. What is there to be expected but chaos? No preparation of any kind, no possibility of a policy—wrangling committees, jarring interests, and a rampant lobby. Ah, if the Secretary of the Treasury could only stand up in the House as a centre and rallying-point for the friends of sound finance, and a fulcrum by the aid of which the leaden weight which presses upon the country could be lifted aside!

G. B.

Boston, November 19, 1887.

[The difference between legal-tender inflation and what "G. B." calls silver inflation is that the former was an issue of paper put out to meet a Treasury deficit—*i. e.*, forced into circulation. There is no forcing of silver into circulation, nor can there be any

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while the public receipts equal the public disbursements.

We do not understand how the present tariff "acts like an artificial dam to keep the lake of our currency at a higher level than could possibly otherwise be maintained." It is a safe rule in economic discussion to doubt everything that cannot be stated with precision and clearness. As a prelude to understanding the operation of the dam and the lake, it would be well to state exactly what we mean by inflation, to tell what it consists of, and how we are to know that it exists.—Ed. Nation.]

TRADUTTORE TRADITORE.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: I feel impelled to take for my text a passage from a recent number of the *Nation*, and to preach a little sermon on a kind of criticism that is as galling to the person criticised as it is, from my point of view, unjust. The text is this: "The two designs of Christ by Mowbray are simply caricatures of religious art, and, *even rendered as they are with the curious fidelity of Juengling's graver*, quite unworthy the book," etc. There is more of it, but this is enough for my purpose.

I make this my text rather than other passages in the same style because it is the nearest to hand. I have seen neither the engravings nor the originals, and can therefore discuss the abstract question of the justice of this kind of criticism on its merits and "entirely unbiassed by facts."

How does your critic know that Juengling's graver has been faithful? I can imagine the artist telling another story. Can you not imagine him saying, "Mr. Juengling's graver is brilliant, facile, vigorous, charming, what you will; but it is *not* faithful"? My own experience is that even our best engravers habitually destroy the most individual qualities of their originals. Most of them are not artists at all; those of them that are, are by that very individuality which makes them artists, prevented from rendering with fidelity the work of an artist of radically different temperament and methods from their own. Mr. Juengling is one of the most original and interesting of our engravers, and *on that account* his rendering of the drawing of another artist is not to be relied on.

The reasoning of the critic who writes in the way quoted (and such criticism is only too common) must be something like this: "The engraving is evidently excellent as engraving, consequently it must be faithful. The drawing is bad and the heads are vulgar; this must be the fault of the artist"; and then he writes a criticism in which the artist comes in for all the blame and the engraver for all the praise.

To see the fallacy of such reasoning one has only to apply it to the old-fashioned steel engravings after the old masters. Imagine a critic deciding on the merits of Raphael or Lionardo from one of Morghen's prints, and saying: "Morghen cuts a line on steel in a masterly manner and shows great knowledge of his profession, but the inane character of the heads and the insipidity of expression in his original are such as nothing less than his nobility of interpretation could save from hopeless vulgarity."

It is time it were said that *no* copyist improves upon his original, and that all interpretations and reproductions are deteriorations. I think most artists who have had the misfortune to work for reproduction long for the day when "process" shall reign supreme, and when the few engravers who are artists shall confine themselves to original work, and the many who are not shall "softly and silently vanish away" and trouble us no more. But as long as we have to endure the injury of having our work "translated" as much beyond recognition as *Bottom* ever was, let us at least be spared the added insult of finding all the merits of it attributed to the translator and only the faults left to our own poor share.

Kenyon Cox.

New York, November 18, 1887.

[Nevertheless, that adequate interpretation is attainable, we fully believe. We could cite a portrait head of Darwin executed on wood for *Harper's Magazine* after a photograph, and on an enlarged scale, which the great naturalist's family decidedly preferred to the sun picture, regarding it as a marvel of insight into the character of the subject. To Mr. Kruell, therefore, they applied for a fresh portrait under similar conditions for the new Life of Darwin. Those who have been privileged to see Mr. Cole's woodcuts after the old masters, familiar both from line engravings and from photographs, will confess that they are revelations, and preferable to any reproduction short of color.—Ed. Nation.]

THE SUPREME COURT.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: In the last number of the *Nation*, a Washington correspondent, under the caption of "Some Things about the United States Supreme Court," quotes a speech made at the bar meeting commemorative of the late Mr. Justice Woods, and gives statistics to illustrate two statements made in that speech, viz.: "That no full Chief Justice had, before his elevation, filled any judicial position whatever," and that "it was also true, as a rule, that the associate justices were taken untried from the bar."

Statements so wide of the truth, supported by a series of instances so inaccurate, so different from the facts, may not be allowed to stand unchallenged in the columns of the *Nation*.

It is strange that any lawyer should have made the first statement, and stranger still that any one should have repeated it on paper. Both Jay and Ellsworth had held positions upon the benches of their respective States, as had also Rutledge, whom, however, having failed of confirmation, your correspondent may not consider to have been a "full" Chief Justice. Jay was the first Chief Justice of New York under the Constitution of 1777, and held that office until 1779, when he was appointed to the Spanish Mission. Ellsworth was a Justice of the Superior Court of Connecticut from 1784 to 1789. Rutledge, who, "R." says, had not "previously been a judge," served on the Chancery Bench of South Carolina from 1784 to 1791. (See 'The Lives of the Chief Justices,' by Flanders, or by Van Santvoord.) It thus appears that one-third of the Chief Justices had seen judicial service before their elevation to the Supreme Bench.

As to the associates, of whom "R." says "but fourteen or fifteen had previously filled judicial positions," twenty-five or twenty-six had sat upon State or Federal benches before they donned the silk robe at Washington. Besides Rutledge, the following are among those whom "R." avers to have been "taken untried from the ranks of the bar": Alfred Moore, who was taken directly from the North Carolina bench; Thomas Todd, who, as associate and Chief Justice, had served upon the appellate court of Kentucky from 1801 to 1807, and was thence transferred to Washington by Jefferson; Robert Trimble, who followed in the steps of Todd, and who also, I believe, was a District Judge immediately before his appointment to the Supreme Court of the United States; William Strong, who served with distinction in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania from 1857 to 1868. Others whom "R." has not credited with previous judicial service are: James M. Wayne, who was a Judge of the Superior Court of Georgia from 1824 to 1829; Levi Woodbury, who served upon the Supreme Court of New Hampshire in the second decade of the century; David Davis, who presided over the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Illinois for fourteen years previous to his appointment to the Supreme Court by Lincoln; Stephen J. Field, who had seen over ten years' judicial service as Alcalde of Marysville and Justice and Chief Justice of California. Ward Hunt was taken from the New York Court of Errors and Appeals, and Stanley Matthews, I have somewhere seen written, was once a Common Pleas Judge in Hamilton County, Ohio. A reference to the State reports and any American biographical dictionary will confirm these statements.

It is thus seen that more than one-half of the men who have worn the ermine of the Capitol have served a judicial apprenticeship; and the rule stated by the "senior lawyer" is no rule.

J. S. A.

Philadelphia, November 21, 1887.

[Another correspondent, after repeating the facts concerning Jay and Ellsworth, continues:]

It might also be added that William Cushing, who was appointed and confirmed as Chief Justice, and received his commission, which he held about a week before resigning, had been previously a County Judge of Probate in Massachusetts, Judge of the Superior Court, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State, and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. (Van Santvoord, p. 245, note.)

The case of Chief-Justice Cushing would also seem to form an exception to the statement quoted by your correspondent, that "It was, perhaps, a law of the court that no associate should be promoted" to the Chief Justiceship.

AGE OF THE SEQUOIAS.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: At various times interesting discussions have arisen as to the age of the "Big Trees" in the famous Calaveras Grove. When I was there in the autumn of 1880, I came to the conclusion that it was absurd to suppose that those trees were more than a thousand years old.

From the volume called 'The First Holiday,' published on my return, p. 362, I extract the following from an account of my visit to Berkeley University:

"In talking of the Big Trees and comparing the bark of the sequoia with that of the redwood, I told Prof. Jackson that I felt sure the age of the sequoia had not been properly estimated. In a climate which produces two or three crops a year of most vegetables, there is nothing to prevent the formation of more than one ring in twelve months, and I wished the age of some recently planted sequoias could be tested by cutting down one known to be about twenty years old. Prof. Jackson thought there was a good deal to sustain my view. He said he had found crowded and obscure rings interposed between the well-defined growths."

So far as I know, this was the first time that this theory had been broached. I was led to my conclusion, first, by the existence of the "crowd-

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ed rings" alluded to by Prof. Jackson in the fallen trees, and next, by the rapid growth of those lately planted. There is a common opinion that there are no young sequoias; that the tree is perishing off the face of the earth—is, in short, an accidental survival of a prehistoric growth. This is by no means so. The trees have been destroyed by fire; the ground where they grow is covered with fallen timber and choked with other growths; but so many young trees are thriving well that one may be certain that there is nothing to prevent the formation of fresh groves, unless it is the absence of inclination to plant them. A few persons listened, like Prof. Jackson, to my suggestion, but many more were merely amused by it, perhaps because I had said something quite similar in regard to certain (supposed) prehistoric geological deposits which were discovered that same year in the process of manufacture—if one may use such a phrase—in the quicksilver mines of California.

It was therefore with great pleasure that I found the following passage on page 259 of Du Charnay's 'Ruined Cities of Central America.' It records, so far as I know, the first positive test of the theory I proposed exactly seven years ago. Du Charnay has done what I wanted the proprietors of the young sequoias to do, and has, I think, proved my proposition.

"The roofs, the walls, the courts of the palaces are so well hidden, under the thick vegetation which covers them, that a stranger might pass them a few yards away and never suspect their existence. The size of the trees growing over these structures has been adduced as a conclusive proof of the age of these monuments. Waldeck calculated it to be 2,000 years or more. Lorainzar decided that these monuments must be 1,700 years old at least, reckoning by the rings in a single piece of mahogany taken from these ruins. His reasoning was based on the erroneous notion that each of the concentric circles represents a year's growth; whereas, I have ascertained that in a tropical country nature never rests; for, chancing to cut a twig some eighteen months old, I counted no less than eighteen circles. To assure myself that this was not an isolated case, I cut branches and trees of every size and description, and found the phenomena the same.

"In my first expedition to Palenque in 1859, I had the eastern side of the palace cleared of its dense vegetation. The trees now on that spot cannot be more than twenty-two years old. One of the cuttings, measuring some two feet in diameter, was formed of more than two hundred and thirty rings—that is, at the rate of one a month, or even less. It follows that the seventeen centuries of Lorainzar must be reduced to 150 or 200 years.

"Stephens mentions a ceiba twenty-two years old, six feet and ten inches in diameter; and I observed in Mexico some eucalyptus measuring six feet nine inches in diameter, which was only eighteen years old. Could such trunks have only eighteen or twenty rings?"

The paging of the above extract refers to the English translation of the 'Ancient Cities'; but as the rendering is very bad, I have not followed it. CAROLINE H. DALL.

1603 O Street, Washington, D. C., Nov. 14, 1887.

PURITY OF THE BENCH VINDICATED IN PENNSYLVANIA.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: In your issue of August 25 you published a communication giving the details of the shameful deal in offices between the Republican and Greenback parties of Schuylkill County, Pa., whereby the latter organization were allowed to nominate as the fusion candidate for additional Law Judge a person whose intellectual attainments, legal knowledge and experience, and social, religious, and political opinions totally disqualified him for that high office. Since then the election has occurred, and your readers should be informed that while a portion of the fusion ticket was successful, the section most directly involved in the deal—viz., the Judge and Commissioner—was defeated; the latter by some 600, the former by over 2,600. The Republican members of the bar took the initiative in opposing the fusion judicial nominee (seven-eighths of them voting against him), and, in conjunction with all the Democratic and Prohibition members, issued an address to the people in behalf of the reëlection of the Hon. O. P. Bechtel, a Democrat who is just ending a very satisfactory ten-years' term on the bench. The address took the ground that as the doctrine of the non-partisanship of the local judiciary had been successfully asserted in 1881 in the case of Judge D. B. Green, a Republican who owed his reëlection to independent Democratic support, and again in 1882, when President Judge Cyrus L. Pershing, a Democrat, was reëlected by Republican and independent Democratic voters, it must therefore be applied in the present case. A most savage attack was made upon the members of the bar, and especially upon the Republican members, by the fusion organs, and the epithets of "corporation lawyers," "traitors to the party," and "enemies of the workingmen," were freely bestowed, but all without avail, and some 2,000 of the more intelligent of the Republican voters repudiated the fusion judicial nominee at the polls, and thus for the third time in six years in Schuylkill County vindicated the principle that faithful, experienced local judges are entitled to reëlection without regard to their political opinions. REPUBLICAN.

PARTISANSHIP OF WESTERN LAW STUDENTS.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: It is disheartening to an Independent who is in sympathy with the Administration of President Cleveland to be repeatedly told, "He is a Democrat." While the writer does not resent this as a slanderous imputation, nevertheless it is somewhat dampening to the enthusiasm of one who has Republican antecedents, and who does not regard as sustainable the position of the Democratic party on all questions. A marked instance of this occurred lately within the writer's observation.

Resolutions were presented by the undersigned in a club organized among the students of the Cincinnati Law School, endorsing President Cleveland's Administration and demanding his reëlection. These resolutions the writer strenuously advocated, not as a Democrat, but as a believer in the sincerity and thoroughness of President Cleveland's actions. Especially did he dwell upon the fact that President Cleveland was superior to the restraints of party trammels, and carried himself as the President, not of a party, but of the people. His position was immediately assailed by both Democrats and Republicans alike. The first supported the resolutions, indeed, but only because President Cleveland would be the nominee of the Democratic party. The latter opposed them, not because of any sin of omission or commission on the part of the President, but because they endorsed, as was claimed, the Democratic party. My position was entirely ignored. If I was neither fish, flesh, nor fowl, I was nothing and had no right to argue.

The debate degenerated into a heated partisan discussion on the merits of the two parties. Sectional issues were exhumed and "licked into shape" by these embryo statesmen, with as much avidity as ever our esteemed Governor performed the act. The one poor "Mugwump" and his opinions were entirely slighted; and, amid the uproar raised by his resolutions, he must, perforce, be content to be regarded as a Democrat, and see the resolutions voted down as dangerous ebullitions of the old Confederate spirit.

Yours, N. HEINSHEIMER.

Cincinnati, November 16, 1887.

ANARCHISM AND CITIZENSHIP.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: Although in general the expression of opinions, however distasteful to the rest of the community, is not a crime, yet there appears to be no doubt that many of the utterances of the Anarchists inciting to murder and other crimes are within the criminal law. Now, does not this afford us a means of getting rid of a very undesirable element of our population? These Anarchists are almost without exception foreigners. Why not provide by law that any alien who commits this sort of crime shall be sent out of the country and punished if he comes back? We are under no obligation to furnish an asylum to such people.

Also, our law provides that no person who is not well disposed to the principles of our Constitution shall be naturalized. Why not, then, further provide that if a naturalized citizen commits such a crime—his act amounting to an actual crime for which he might now be punished—and the utterance is such as to show that he is not well disposed to those principles, his naturalization shall be cancelled and he be treated as an alien?—Respectfully yours, H. T. T.

New York, November 15, 1887.

CAVENDISH ON WHIST.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: I have just received from a local dealer a copy of Cavendish on Whist, whose title-page tells me that it is a fifth edition, published by D. Appleton & Co., New York, 1887. The book contains ninety-six pages. In what year the original fifth edition appeared in England I do not know, but I feel sure that if a copy of it can be found to-day, its age would admit it to this country free of duty. The preface to the *eighth* edition is dated January, 1868; the *tenth* edition appeared in 1874, and a *twelfth* edition, a plump volume of 279 pages, was issued at least as far back as 1880. Is it possible that the publishers have been imposed on by some joker's palming off on them an antiquated work for reprint? P.

Ann Arbor, Mich., November 12, 1887.

[We are informed that the current English edition of Cavendish is the sixteenth, and that the Messrs. Appleton's edition of 1864 was designated a "fifth edition."—Ed. Nation.]

TEACHERS' AGENCIES.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: If teachers' agencies are what your correspondent of November 10th would imply—mere mediums for furnishing addresses of candidates to the head master of a school, without regard to the fitness of such candidates for the position—then, indeed, the educational world can well do without them. But an agency is supposed to be something more than this. A reliable agency is informed as to the peculiar advantages of candidates, and holds such recommendations and references as a teacher may be able to furnish. One seeking a teacher is, therefore, much more likely to find a suitable candidate through an agency than through individual advertisements, as in the former instance he is at once thrown into correspondence with one who has some claim to fitness, while in the latter case he might answer twenty indi-

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vidual advertisements before finding a candidate of promise.

Your correspondent asserts that whether a teacher is employed through an agency or not is a "matter of no consequence to the head of the school, who pays nothing in either case." I am glad to note an exception to the above statement in the case of a certain school board, who, several years since, made an engagement with the writer, through one of the agencies advertised in the *Nation*, and, upon renewing the engagement for a second year, generously handed her the amount of the commission on the first year's salary; and it is altogether probable that the average employer would be willing to pay, if not the whole, at least half of the commission, for the sake of securing a teacher who would not only give satisfaction, but who would promise something of permanency—a quality comparatively rare, especially among the thousands of "sweet girl graduates" who are yearly added to the ranks. C.

NOVEMBER 15, 1887.

ZOLA'S IDEALISM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: May I suggest, in relation to Mr. H. D. Traill's characterization of É. Zola as an idealist (see the *Nation*, November 10), that M. J. Lemaitre, in his 'Contemporains,' long ago made the same remark? Comparing him with A. Daudet, who *is*, according to him, the genuine "naturalistic" novelist, M. Lemaitre said: "Zola imagines more than he really observes; he is a true poet in the etymological (though somewhat crude) sense of the word, and an idealistic poet, if the customary meaning of this term be reversed." ("M. Zola invente beaucoup plus qu'il n'observe; il est vraiment poète si l'on prend le mot au sens étymologique, qui est un peu grossier, et poète idéaliste, si l'on prend le mot au rebours de son sens habituel.")

I shall take the liberty to add that this conclusion to which M. J. Lemaitre leads his readers with his well-known analytic penetration, does perhaps more real justice to the author of 'Les Rougon-Macquart,' than the wholesale slaughter in which M. Brunetière has indulged of late in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, and in which systematic, or rather idiosyncratic, contempt seems, I am sorry to say, to prevail over equitable criticism.

A. DU FOUR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 19, 1887.

THE RAINFALL ON THE PLAINS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Recently there have been two contributions to an interesting discussion, that of the increased rainfall which, it is alleged, has taken place of late years in what was formerly called the "Great American Desert," or the region lying west of the Missouri and between the river and the base of the Rocky Mountains. Ex-Senator Dorsey's article in the *North American Review* forms one of these contributions, while the other is the address of Gen. Morrow before the Cheyenne County Fair at Sidney, near the eastern boundary line of Colorado. Gen. Morrow claims that there has been a decided increase in the rainfall; Mr. Dorsey takes the other view of the matter.

As the result of a number of years of continued, though not scientific, observation of the region in question, I am inclined to concur with Gen. Morrow in his conclusions rather than with Mr. Dorsey. But my own explanation of the increased rainfall, and the causes of the increase, is somewhat different from that given by Gen. Morrow. As the subject is one of interest to a large number of people, I venture to present it.

The whole region in question is a gentle slope stretching for about 600 miles east and west, north and south. It is drained by a number of rivers which receive contributions from small streams, in the nature almost of gutters or ditches, most of which, as you go west, are dry for the larger portion of the year. The region is not like any which is found east of the Missouri River, but it rises to a considerable altitude only in its western portion. This vast territory, from a time so far remote as to be almost incalculable, was regularly burned over by fire, and during certain periods of the year was grazed over and trampled by countless herds of buffalo. Never being broken by the plough, its surface gradually assumed a brick-like consistency. It was impervious to water. Upon this brick-like surface there grew a mossy vegetation known as "buffalo grass." Water flowed off from this surface much as it would off from the roof of a house. It passed into the ditches or gutters above referred to, and was slowly carried down into the Missouri. In fact, the whole country was literally one vast tile-roofed water-shed, of which the Rocky Mountains were a species of rude ridge-pole.

It followed, of course, that the rainfall of the country, instead of sinking into the soil and in some form remaining in the country, was carried off to the Gulf of Mexico. As population advanced, all this changed. The brick or tile-like surface was broken, the water percolated into the soil and was held there, the moss-like buffalo grass gave place to growing crops, and consequently all the meteorological conditions were changed. Before this took place there was no more evaporation from that country during the greater portion of the year than there is from the roof of a church. After the soil was broken regular evaporation began. Consequently both soil and atmosphere became impregnated with a moisture unknown before, which lasted all through the year.

This seems a natural explanation of the alleged increase of rainfall, which has unquestionably taken place. Neither is there any safe ground for believing that the climatic changes have yet reached their limit. As the soil is broken further west to the base of the Rocky Mountains, there can hardly be any question that the atmospheric conditions will change correspondingly. Water which formerly poured away will be held, first in the soil, and then in the atmosphere, returning again to the soil in the form of rain. Consequently, there seems no good reason for doubting that the entire area of country west of the Missouri and east of the Rockies will within a few years enjoy a rainfall sufficient to admit of raising crops without any considerable degree of artificial irrigation; the general breaking up of the present tile-like, impervious surface of the soil being the single condition precedent.

The question is not only one of scientific interest, but it is of vital importance to all the companies now building railroads through that region, and any explanation of it derived from observation and experience can hardly be otherwise than of value. I am, etc.,

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

BOSTON, November 14.

Notes.

A WORK that will mark an epoch is the volume entitled 'Engravings on Wood by Members of the Society of American Wood-Engravers,' to be published this week by the Messrs. Harper. It will show in a conspicuous way the present attainment of the American school. An introduction treats of the art, and a brief text describes the several illustrations. An *édition de luxe* at $100 each has been already taken up. The popular edition, however, will consist of plate proofs.

A limited large-paper edition of Mr. Stedman's 'Victorian Poets,' with eleven portraits, is announced by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., together with a dollar edition of Bayard Taylor's translation of the First Part of 'Faust,' and a 'Life of Franklin,' by Prof. J. B. McMaster, in the American Men of Letters series.

J. W. Bouton will have ready for delivery in December 'The Salon of Paris, 1887,' illustrated by one hundred photogravures printed in various colors, after the best pictures exhibited, and by a number of etched head and tail-pieces. There will be two editions of this handsome work—a large 8vo—with a slight difference in the cost.

Townsend MacCoun, 150 Nassau Street, will have ready December 1 a plate showing the results of the latest explorations of the Acropolis of Athens. It has been drawn by S. B. P. Trowbridge of the American School, assisted by Dr. Dörpfeld of the German and Dr. Penrose of the English. The size will be 22x15 inches.

'Free Joe, and Other Georgian Sketches,' by Joel Chandler Harris ("Uncle Remus"); and 'A Girl's Life Eighty Years Ago,' being the memorials of Eliza Bowne, of which specimens have already appeared in *Scribner's Magazine*, are about to be brought out by the Messrs. Scribner. They have also in preparation a new and cheaper edition of Mr. R. H. Stoddard's 'Bric-à-Brac Series.'

'Patriotic Addresses [and Articles],' by Henry Ward Beecher, compiled by John R. Howard, is in the press of Fords, Howard & Hulbert.

T. Y. Crowell & Co., still pursuing their Russian "lead," promise translations of 'The Vagrant, and Other Tales,' by Vladimir Korolénko, and 'A Russian Proprietor, and Other Stories,' by Count Leo Tolstoi.

J. B. Lippincott Co. will shortly republish in this country 'Too Curious,' a novel, by E. J. Goodman.

Worthington Co. publish directly 'The Vanderheyde Manor House,' by Miss M. Cruger.

An annotated edition of Wordsworth's 'Prelude,' by Prof. A. J. George of Boston University, will be issued by D. C. Heath & Co.

An edition of Shakspere, cared for by Henry Irving and Frank A. Marshall, is set down for immediate publication in London by Blackie & Son. The "combination" is taking.

We learn that the Danish translation of Prof. R. B. Anderson's 'Norse Mythology' will probably be out by Christmas; an Italian translation, by Tommaso Cannizzaro of Messina, will appear in the spring, and Richter of Hamburg is printing a German version; a French appeared last year, and is about to pass to a second edition. Prof. Anderson's 'America Not Discovered by Columbus' has been brought out in German at Munich. His next undertaking will be a translation of the 'Elder Edda' in two volumes.

A new volume by the poet Jean Richepin is announced by Maurice Dreyfous. It is a continuation of 'Les Blasphèmes,' and will be called 'Le Paradis du Diable.'

The first volume of the 'Mémoires et Correspondance du Comte de Villèle' is announced for immediate publication by Perrin. The work is to consist of four octavo volumes when completed, the remaining three to be issued at short intervals. For any one interested in the political or social history of the first half of the pre-

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sent century in France, the correspondence of the famous minister of Louis XVIII. and Charles X. promises much.

A second edition of the first two volumes of M. Paul Thureau-Dangin's 'Histoire de la Monarchie de Juillet' (Plon & Nourrit) has been issued. It is not a mere reprint, the two volumes being enlarged by more than two hundred pages, and portions being entirely rewritten. The present edition has been prepared with the assistance of important unpublished documents which have been communicated to the author since these volumes were first issued in 1884.

The second volume of Rudolph Rényi's 'History of Italian Poetry' ('Itália Költészetének Története') is announced for publication at Budapest. The first volume, issued early in the year, comprises the period ending with the great names of the Trecento. Chapter i. treats of the destructive corruptions of the Latin language in Italy, and of the rise of the new speech; ii.-iii. are devoted to the troubadours, Provençal and Italian; iv.-vi. to the predecessors of Dante, from Folco of Calabria to Guido Cavalcanti; vii.-viii. to Dante; ix.-xii. to Petrarch; xii. to Boccaccio; xiii. to the early drama; and the text closes with an elaborate and instructive essay on the beginnings of humanism, and its rapid and renovating development. The notes fill nearly forty pages, citing all the authorities, and displaying the wide range of the author's researches. The book is worthy of Dr. Rényi's high reputation, and promises, when complete, to be not only an important addition to Magyar literature, but the really best manual of the subject, in a compact form, in any language. It is published under the auspices of the Hungarian Academy.

Engelmann of Leipsic is publishing, in parts, an important botanical work on the natural orders of plants ('Die natürlichen Planzenfamilien'), under the editorship of Profs. Engler and Prantl. Various botanists take separate families—Drude the Palms, which are already finished in 100 pages; Hackel the Grasses, Engler the Liliaceæ, etc., and the lamented Eichler did the Cycadaceæ and Coniferæ, aided at the last by the editors. As the contributors write independently, and publish in separate fascicles, the work gets on rather rapidly. Twelve fascicles, each of 48 pages, imperial octavo, have already been issued. The subscription price is only a mark and a half per fascicle—very cheap, indeed, considering that the treatment extends to the genera and that the letterpress abounds with excellent figures.

The Dunlap Society begins its second year with nearly one hundred and forty members, and recruits continue to come in. It proposes to issue three books this year, as it did last. The first of these is now ready for delivery; it is a reprint of Dunlap's 'André,' with a portrait of André from a drawing by himself, and with an introduction by Mr. Brander Matthews considering chronologically all the Arnold and André plays. The second book will be a biography of Thomas A. Cooper, by Mr. Joseph N. Ireland, author of the 'Records of the New York Stage.'

We have already praised the "Knickerbocker Nuggets" series of classics issued by G. P. Putnam's Sons, and we can now approve the extension of the idea to Irving's belles-lettres works in a portable little library of twelve volumes. This "Tappan-Zee Edition" includes 'Knickerbocker's History of New York,' 'The Sketch-Book,' 'The Alhambra,' 'Tales of a Traveller,' 'Crayon Miscellany,' 'Bracebridge Hall,' and 'Wolfert's Roost.' The seasonableness of its appearance will be appreciated. We may add on the publishers' behalf that their editions of Irving are the only ones based upon the author's latest revisions.

Mr. Lynds E. Jones's 'The Best Reading' (Putnams) covers in its third series the five years ending December 1, 1886. It thus overlaps the last issue of the 'American Catalogue,' and partly bridges the interval before the next issue. It is a "priced and classified bibliography, for easy reference, of the more important English and American publications." Its utility to the student is obvious, and at this season one must think also of the book-giver who will be convenienced by it.

Still another volume of the Pocket Thackeray (Lippincott) contains the 'Roundabout Papers' and many minor sketches.

Burns's "Mountain Daisy," Bryant's "Waterfowl," Longfellow's "Sunrise on the Hills," Hood's "I Remember," and some sea pictures from Tennyson have been made the subject of decorative illustration on a tiny scale by Wm. J. Whittemore (T. Y. Crowell & Co.). The printing is on one side of the cardboard, and the whole is bound together with silken cord. Mr. Whittemore's little dabs of color appear on inspection to be in sympathy with the several poems to which they are attached, and sometimes are fairly to be called felicitous, as in the first Longfellow vignette. They never offend, and that is saying a great deal in the case of holiday souvenirs of this sort.

The biographical section of the Index to the first hundred volumes of *Littell's Living Age* which Mr. Edward Roth publishes slowly at No. 1135 Pine Street, Philadelphia, is near its end. Part 11 extends from Vestris to Wortley.

A list of printed maps of California has been issued in the ninth bulletin of the Library of the University of California. The earliest bears date of 1844, reference for all those which preceded it being made to sundry accessible sources. The second on the list is dated 1846, and then there is a gap till 1860 is reached, so that the twenty-nine pages cover really only the last three decades. The list may be had of the Librarian for the postage—two cents.

The Department of Agriculture pays Prof. A. S. Packard of Brown University the compliment of printing a list of his entomological writings in its Bulletin No. 16. A sketch of Dr. Packard's scientific career is prefixed, and in an appendix is given a systematic list of the new names proposed by him.

The more old-fashioned of us have often had occasion to lament the deterioration apparent in the handwriting of the present generation as compared with that of an earlier date. Whether there is already a true ground for this lament may be questioned, perhaps, but the introduction of type-writers will, if continued at the rate of the last few years, soon leave an influential proportion of the community with nothing but a signature when they "take a pen in hand." Now this chirographic atrophy is descending from the counting-room to the college. The instructions lately issued for the preparation of forensics at Harvard contain the significant paragraph, "Type-writing will be acceptable." The examination system is already responsible for much bad writing, for very few students do more than scramble over their pages when writing hurried answers to hard questions. The formal exercises in written English might, as long as they were handwritten, serve as antidotes to the examinations in this respect, but now this protection is to go. We may freely sympathize with the instructors who have to read over badly written themes and forensics, but we must protest against a movement whose visible end is the supply of type-writer desks to the primary schools.

The *Art Review* of this city comes in a triple number, September–November, and contains ten articles, a large amount of notes and news, and sixteen full-page photogravures. The leading essays are by well-known writers, of whom only one, however, is an artist, and none is an art critic. All have an air of no-time-in-particular or one-time-as-good-as-another, and the *Review* seems devoid of both life and unity. The illustrations—from oils, water color, or plaster—are for the most part rather ordinary in treatment; the best falling short of distinction.

The well-known African traveller, Mr. H. H. Johnston, in the November *Nineteenth Century*, takes up the cudgels in defence of the British missionaries against the recent attacks made upon them, notably by Dr. Oscar Lenz. He pictures, with much force and pathos, the reception of an explorer by the missionary and his wife, and graphically describes his station, home, and occupations. He acknowledges that he is often narrow-minded, and that his converts are few in number and of a low type not merely of Christians, but of men, as compared with many of the heathen negroes. He goes so far as to say of the missions in general, that, "judged from a purely Christian point of view, they have not been successful." He argues, however, that it is not reasonable to judge of what they may accomplish by their present condition. "The arrival of the first missionary with many of these new nations," he justly observes, "may be the first historical event in their annals." There can be no question, he urges, that the missionaries have exerted a great civilizing influence, and have added to the resources of the natives by the introduction of valuable trees and plants. They have also contributed more than any others to our knowledge of the botany, zoölogy, and anthropology of these regions, while by their labors "nearly two hundred African languages and dialects," some of which are now extinct, have been illustrated by grammars, dictionaries, vocabularies, and translations of the Bible and other religious works. There are nine British missionary societies now laboring in Africa, with an aggregate annual expenditure of $1,000,000.

The *Nouvelle Revue* for November contains an account of the city of Marocco during the illness of the Emperor in 1878. The writer, M. Jules Erckmann, was there at the time, on a special mission to the court. At the first report of the Emperor's illness there was an intense excitement, and the "day of Mohammed," Friday, when he was accustomed to go to the mosque, was anxiously awaited. At the appointed time the streets were thronged with an expectant multitude, who, when the Emperor failed to appear, rushed to the shops to buy powder, the price of which doubled in a few hours. The Jews hastened to their homes to hide their valuables, and troops were despatched in various directions to hold in check the neighboring turbulent tribes. For three weeks they lived on the brink of a volcano which might at any instant burst forth. Precisely the same condition of things exists now, he writes, with this difference, that then the sons of the Emperor were too young to succeed him, but he had a grand vizier. Now his sons are old enough, but there is no vizier. Incidentally, M. Erckmann, referring to the fact that there is no feeling of nationality uniting the various tribes, says that there is no reason, if Muley-Hassan has not designated his successor, why the three kingdoms of Fez, Marocco, and Tafilet should not each nominate a monarch. He also tells the story of the present Emperor's accession, as told to him by a renegade Frenchman, Baron Saint-Julien, who had an official position at the court. In this case Sidi-Mohammed's death was con-

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cealed for some time in order to permit Muley-Hassan, who was a younger son, to gather force enough to overcome all opposition to his claims.

—Those who are interested in the administration of a scientific bureau of the Government should look over the report on the organization, business methods, and work of the United States Geological Survey, prepared by the Director, Maj. J. W. Powell, in response to a circular from Senator Cockrell, chairman of a select committee of the Senate. The report has lately been published, and presents a most detailed account of the scientific and business organization, including even samples of the vouchers, invoices, receipts, and circular letters by means of which the work of the Survey is transacted, checked, and simplified, as well as outlines of the principles regulating the divisions of geography, topography, paleontology, publication, illustration, and so on. The method of recording the distribution of publications is remarkably specific: every volume sent from the Geological Office can be traced at any time, and the applicant for it, the date of sending, and the receipt are all recorded. Most of the publications are properly technical, but some have a general interest—for example, "Bulletin 13. Boundaries of the United States and of the several States and Territories. 1885. 8vo, 135 pp., price 10 cents." This little monograph, prepared by the Chief Geographer of the Survey, in the course of his work in constructing maps for the Survey's needs, should be within reach of all students of our history. Of more importance than the distribution is the preparation of these documents. This is supervised by an editorial division, to secure uniformity in various desired respects, and by an illustration division, to insure correct and artistic plates and figures. The material to be printed is carefully scrutinized. "The reports prepared by chiefs of divisions are submitted to the Director for approval, and are generally discussed at length by the author and Director, and sometimes by other officers of the Survey, before they are transmitted to the editorial department." This prevents the appearance of crude and immature statements, and is one of the best and most characteristic features of the administration of the Survey.

—We have received from the publishers, Maisonneuve & Lechevalier of Paris, the second number of the *Annuaire de la Société des Traditions populaires* (8vo, pp. xxx, 180). The Society now has an official existence, being recognized by the Government, and having its seat in the Palace of the Trocadéro. The publications of the Society consist of a monthly review and an annual. The number for 1887 contains the statutes of the Society (the subscription to which is fifteen francs a year), list of members, and bibliography for 1886, besides an interesting miscellany. The Secretary, P. Sébillot, contributes minute directions for the collection of folk-lore, and an extensive series of questions covering the physical world, the supernatural world; man and human life; the professions, traditions, and superstitions of a large city; folk-lore law; medicine; legends, beliefs, and superstitions of the sea, and customs and beliefs of fishermen. The other contents consist of folk-songs with the music, and popular tales and customs of various peoples. Among these is a Louisiana variant of one of Uncle Remus's stories ("Mr. Rabbit finds his match at last"), in which a tortoise races with a roebuck. It is interesting to see that the favorite artist Bouguereau has been for twenty years the subject of a somewhat irreverent legend. Intending purchasers of Parisian bonnets will take notice of a custom probably new to them, mentioned on page 80, from which it appears that spitting in the crown of the hat by the maker insures the acceptance of the goods. The *Annuaire* is beautifully printed, with ornamental initials and tail-pieces, and will afford pleasant reading for others than the professional *folk-loristes*.

—The approaching election to fill the vacancy in the French Academy made by the death of M. Caro in July last was already beginning to be talked about, although its date will not be fixed until after the next reception (that of M. Gréard, in December), when two other deaths among the Academicians occurred. The first of these, October 5, was that of Baron Louis de Viel-Castel at the age of eighty-seven. This long life was divided between the duties of a diplomatist and official and the pleasures of an author, the great work of his life being his 'Histoire de la Restauration' in twenty volumes, to which he owed his admission to the Academy in 1873, though at that time only *fourteen volumes had been published*. M. de Viel-Castel has been reproached for the extreme calmness of the tone in which he has written, which his critics have not hesitated to call coldness, and which even his friends admit to be impartiality carried to an excess that neither truth nor justice absolutely required; but all alike bear witness to his unfailing knowledge of the men and events of the period. The author of the 'Histoire de la Restauration' was singularly well placed for such a work. Entering the diplomatic service in 1818, he was Secretary of the French Embassy at Madrid, and afterwards at Vienna. Returning to Paris in 1829, he became first *sous-directeur* and afterwards *directeur politique* in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, positions in which all the diplomatic correspondence of the Government passed under his observation, and the most intimate political association connected him with the men of note of the time. It is said that from his entrance into public life he made it his habit to note daily the events which occurred, and the opinions he heard expressed around him, as well as his own impressions of the moment, and that these notes have contributed much towards making his work, if not one of the most interesting narratives, certainly one of the most valuable diplomatic and political histories of the century. After the 2d of December, 1851, M. de Viel-Castel withdrew from public life, and devoted himself to the publication of his history.

—A third vacancy in the French Academy was made by the death, October 18, of M. Cuvillier-Fleury. He was almost eighty-six years old, and he was, like M. de Viel-Castel when he died, the oldest of the Academicians. He was also for more than fifty years one of the most active collaborators of the *Journal des Débats*, in which his first articles appeared in 1834, at the time when that paper had undertaken the advocacy of parliamentary government for France. M. Cuvillier-Fleury always remained faithful to his early political opinions, having been all his life what is called in France a constitutional or parliamentary Liberal. His active but anonymous political collaboration in the *Débats* continued until the Revolution of 1848, and during this time his almost daily articles were attributed in turn to Guizot, De Sacy, and others of the most prominent Liberals of the time. Under the Empire, when direct political writing became impossible, M. Cuvillier-Fleury began a series of literary and critical articles in the *Journal des Débats* which he continued as long as he was able to write at all. These were afterwards collected and published in volumes between 1851 and 1878, and were the ostensible cause of his election to the Academy in 1866. No one who was in the habit of reading the *Débats* twenty-five years ago can recall without delight the charm of these articles, in which, as has been so well said of them, the author seemed to possess the art of letting everything be understood, at a period when it was impossible to say anything. The caprice of events placed M. Cuvillier-Fleury in peculiarly intimate relations with two of the reigning families of France. He began life at eighteen as secretary to the ex-King of Holland, Louis Bonaparte, the father of the Emperor Napoleon III. This was in 1820 and 1821, when the prince was living in exile in Italy. Later, in 1827, Louis Philippe, then only Duke of Orleans, appointed him *précepteur* to his fourth son, the Duc d'Aumale, a position which he retained until 1839, remaining with the young prince as secretary for several years after he was no longer needed as a tutor. The most affectionate attachment always existed between the former master and pupil, the first of whom was happy to consider the other "the best of all his works," while the second was proud to acknowledge his indebtedness to the old friend who directed his youth. It was to M. Cuvillier-Fleury that the French Academy assigned the duty of officially receiving the Duc d'Aumale when he was elected a member of that body in 1871. And later, when the aged Academician became blind, in the last years of his life, it was generally the Duc d'Aumale who guided him to his seat when he came to attend the sessions of the Academy.

—Almost a personal feud has broken out in Copenhagen between two no less well-known writers than Björnstjerne Björnson and the critic and literary historian George Brandes, who once made Berlin his home. The controversy involves not merely literary reputations, but social and moral questions, and it is the more remarkable since it was through Brandes that the fame of the Norwegian novelist was extended to Germany. In Björnson's play "The Glove," he lays a thrilling emphasis upon moral purity in man, which he insists should be as fully demanded of him as of woman. The discussion of social questions is now rife in Copenhagen, and Ibsen's powerful work, 'The Ghosts,' of which an admirable summary was given by a correspondent of the *Nation* on its first production in Germany, has affected every class in questions touching family life and domestic chastity. The subject of Björnson's play was discussed in an address given by a Danish lady in Copenhagen before a woman's association. *Politics*, the organ of the brothers Brandes, in an article headed "Angels," reviewed sarcastically this address and those who hold its views. Björnson thereupon sought to defend himself against innuendoes which he thinks are directed against him and require him to take part in the strife. "As regards Dr. George Brandes, I consider his attacks the more unworthy since he knows by dearly purchased experience how much prejudice and scorn every new undertaking must encounter." Brandes answers this with an abusive attack, which does not touch the merits of the question involved, but is directly personal, upon Björnson, whose rhetoric, he says, has become noticeably feminine; who is half a lay tribune of the people and half a lay preacher; who is the son of a preacher and has a penchant for preaching; whose pathos as well as his anger always wears the white necktie of the preacher. Björnson's views of France at different times are cited to injure him; he writes for the gallery, etc. The views of Brandes, so far as he reveals them, are a violent rupture with accepted traditions and standards. All his former aggressiveness, which has been less mani-

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fested of late, appears, in this controversy, unchecked and as tumultuous as in his earlier years.

DARWIN'S LIFE AND LETTERS—II.

Life and Letters of Charles Darwin. With an autobiographic chapter by Francis Darwin. London: John Murray. 3 vols. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 2 vols.

THE American edition of the 'Life and Letters of Charles Darwin' is in two volumes; the English edition, from which we cite, is in three. A French and a German translation appear simultaneously. The editorial labor of love and filial duty is well done. The letters, partly arranged according to topics, so far as regards certain lines of investigation and publication, are left to tell their own story, with some few explanatory paragraphs and terse biographical foot-notes upon persons mentioned or who take part in the correspondence, supplying just the information which general readers would desire and might not otherwise readily obtain. One might say that more letters are printed than is needful for the complete exposition of the writer's work, life, and character; but perhaps none is superfluous, and there is not a tedious one. They were written with absolute *abandon*, without the slightest notion that any one would ever gather and print them, nor even think it worth while to preserve them. They bubble over with *bonhomie*, and have all the life and naturalness of unrestrained conversation. Hence their charm and their value.

The letters in the latter half of the first volume come down to the spring of 1854, to the close of Darwin's work on the Cirripedia. In the autumn of that year he writes that he has "been frittering away the time for several weeks in a wearisome manner, partly idleness and odds and ends, and sending ten thousand barnacles out of the house and all over the world," but that he shall now in a day or two begin to look over his old notes on species. This subject was ever in his mind throughout his prolonged study of Cirripedes, in the midst of which he replied to a near friend, who had asked what "ornamental poultry had to do with barnacles," 'Do not flatter yourself that I shall not live to finish the barnacles, and then make a fool of myself on the subject of species, under which head ornamental poultry are very interesting."

The second volume is specially devoted to his work on the 'Origin of Species' and to the correspondence of the period, from 1843 to 1862. It has a preliminary chapter by the editor on the foundations of the theory, with an account of the early sketch written in 1844. There is, moreover, a chapter by Prof. Huxley on the reception of the book—an historical and critical essay, very interesting and very characteristic, very provocative of citation, only one would not know how and when to stop. Excellent and true is his statement of the condition of mind of the leading philosophical naturalists when "the publication of the Darwin and Wallace papers in 1858, and still more of the 'Origin' in 1859, had the effect upon them of the flash of light which, to a man who has lost himself in a dark night, suddenly reveals a road which, whether it takes him straight home or not, certainly goes his way." Again:

"My reflection, when I first made myself master of the central idea of the 'Origin,' was, How very stupid not to have thought of that. With any and every critical doubt which my sceptical ingenuity could suggest, the Darwinian hypothesis remained incomparably more probable than the creation hypothesis. . . . The only rational course for those who had no other object than the attainment of truth was to accept Darwinianism as a working hypothesis, and see what could be made of it. Either it would prove its capacity to elucidate the facts of organic life, or it would break down under the strain. This was surely the dictate of common sense; and, for once, common sense carried the day. The result has been that complete *volte-face* of the whole scientific world which must seem so surprising to the present generation."

Huxley takes the present occasion to reaffirm his early declaration that "perhaps the most remarkable service to the philosophy of Biology rendered by Mr. Darwin is the reconciliation of Teleology and Morphology, and the explanation of the facts of both"; that "the teleological and the mechanical views of nature are not, necessarily, mutually exclusive." He now adds:

"The acute champion of Teleology, Paley, saw no difficulty in admitting that the 'production of things' may be the result of trains of mechanical dispositions fixed beforehand by intelligent appointment, and kept in action by a power at the centre. That is to say, he proleptically accepted the modern doctrine of Evolution; and his successors might do well to follow their leader, or at any rate to attend to his weighty reasonings, before rushing into an antagonism which has no reasonable foundation."

"Not a solitary problem presents itself to the philosophical theist, at the present day, which has not existed from the time that philosophers began to think out the logical grounds and the logical consequences of theism. All the real or imaginary perplexities which flow from the conception of the universe as a determinate mechanism, are equally involved in the assumption of an Eternal, Omnipotent and Omniscient Deity. The theological equivalent of the scientific conception of order is Providence; and the doctrine of determinism follows as surely from the attributes of foreknowledge assumed by the theologian, as from the universality of natural causation assumed by the man of science."

Nevertheless, the "outpouring of angry nonsense" to which Darwin's work gave rise "is sad to think upon," and equally so the cooler misconceptions of many who, with opposing prejudices, either deprecated or welcomed the new views. Darwin's own noble bearing is seen in his letters through this trying period, which give great interest to the second volume. His sensitive nature is seen to respond joyfully to praise, and hardly less so to all just criticism, while unfair or contumelious criticism does not disturb his equanimity or provoke a censorious remark.

The third volume takes up his work in the year 1863, when he was engaged upon the 'Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication,' to be followed by the 'Descent of Man' and 'Expression of the Emotions,' and by the various biological investigations, chiefly upon plants, which most pleasantly occupied the later years of his life. It was a great satisfaction to his family and friends that his health improved during the last ten years, so that he could work more steadily and, if not enjoyably, yet with less distress and discomfort. Naturally there was a certain loss of physical vigor as the end drew near. His letters to his friends perhaps grow less vivacious, but not less interesting. He writes in the last year: "I have not the heart or strength to begin any investigation lasting years, which is the only thing I enjoy, and I have no little jobs which I can do." The close came on the 19th of April, 1882. The editor concludes the record of his father's life with a note which the latter added to his autobiography two years before:

"As for myself, I believe that I have acted rightly in steadily following and devoting my life to science. I feel no remorse from having committed any great sin, but have often and often regretted that I have not done more direct good to my fellow-creatures."

Darwin's letters, which form the staple of these volumes, are mainly selected from those written to personal friends; perhaps a full half of them are to Sir Joseph Hooker, and an almost equal proportion was to Lyell, while he lived. There are not very many letters from his correspondents; indeed, more of them would have been desirable; but we understand that, except in late years, Darwin from time to time destroyed most old correspondence. It is well that his friends acted differently. Almost all the letters are on scientific subjects or have a scientific substratum, and were written to elicit some information, or to return effusive thanks for the same. But incidentally they reflect the writer's sentiments upon various topics of the day, and are thoroughly illustrative of character. Of family letters there are hardly any. Here is an idyllic bit of one of them, written to Mrs. Darwin when, after working too hard upon the 'Origin of Species' book, he was obliged to go down for a while, in the spring of 1858, to a water-cure:

"The weather is quite delicious. Yesterday, after writing to you, I strolled a little beyond the glade for an hour and a half, and enjoyed myself—the fresh yet dark green of the grand Scotch firs, the brown of the catkins of the old birches, with their white stems, and a fringe of distant green from the larches, made an excessively pretty view. At last I fell fast asleep on the grass, and awoke with a chorus of birds singing around me, and squirrels running up the trees, and some woodpeckers laughing, and it was as pleasant and rural a scene as ever I saw, and I did not care one penny how any of the beasts or birds had been formed" (ii., p. 114).

Readers cannot all be naturalists, nor care very much how the birds and beasts may have been formed; they may care more for Darwin's sentiments regarding human interests. His horror of cruelty to animals, his remonstrance against needless or merely curious vivisection, and his abomination of slavery, even in its least repulsive forms, are well known, and are here and there exemplified in these volumes. Most readers may recall his description of the Fuegians in his 'Journal of Researches,' and his mention of them in the first volume of these letters is equally unhopeful. In 1870, at the close of a friendly letter to his shipmate, Admiral Sulivan, who was a lieutenant on board the *Beagle*, he writes:

"I had never heard a word about the success of the Tierra del Fuego Mission. It is most wonderful, and shames me, as I always prophesied utter failure. It is a grand success. I shall feel proud if your committee think fit to elect me an honorary member of your society."

The following statement by Admiral Sulivan was printed in 1885, namely that—

"Mr. Darwin had often expressed to me his conviction that it was utterly useless to send missionaries to such a set of savages as the Fuegians, probably the very lowest of the human race. I had always replied that I did not believe any human beings existed too low to comprehend the simple message of the Gospel of Christ. After many years, I think about 1867, but I cannot find the letter, he wrote to me that the recent accounts of the mission proved to him that he had been wrong and I right in our estimates of the native character and the possibility of doing them good through missionaries; and he requested me to forward to the Society an enclosed check for five pounds, as a testimony of the interest he took in their good work. On June 6, 1874, he wrote: 'I am very glad to hear so good an account of the Fuegians, and it is wonderful.' On June 10, 1879: 'The progress of the Fuegians is wonderful, and had it not occurred, would have been to me quite incredible.' On January 3, 1880: 'Your extracts [from a journal] about the Fuegians are extremely curious, and have interested me much. I have often said that the progress of Japan was the greatest wonder in the world, but I declare that the progress of Fuegia is almost equally wonderful.' On March 20th, 1881: 'The account of the Fuegians interested not only me, but all my family. It is truly wonderful what you have heard from Mr. Bridges about their honesty and their language. I certainly should have predicted that not all the mission-

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aries in the world could have done what has been done.' On December 1st, 1881, sending me his annual subscription to the Orphanage at the Mission Station, he wrote: 'Judging from the *Missionary Journal*, the mission in Tierra del Fuego seems going on quite wonderfully well.'"

In our war for the Union, Darwin was much stirred by conflicting emotions. To an American correspondent he wrote, in June, 1861: "North America does not do England justice. I have not seen or heard of a soul who is not with the North. Some few, and I am one of them, even wish to God, though at the loss of millions of lives, the North would proclaim a crusade against slavery. . . . Massachusetts seems to show noble enthusiasm." A few months after came the Mason-Slidell imbroglio, and he writes:

"What a thing it is that, when you receive this, we may be at war, and we two be bound as good patriots to hate each other, though I shall find this hating you very hard work. How curious it is to see two countries, just like two angry and silly men, taking so opposite a view of the same transaction! I fear there is no shadow of doubt we shall fight if the two Southern rogues are not given up. And what a wretched thing it will be if we fight on the side of slavery. No doubt it will be said that we fight to get cotton; but I fully believe that this has not entered into the motive in the least. Well, thank Heaven, we private individuals have nothing to do with so awful a responsibility. Again, how curious it is that you seem to think that you can conquer the South; and I never meet a soul, even those who would most wish it, who thinks it possible—that is, to conquer and retain it. I do not suppose the mass of people in your country will believe it, but I feel sure if we do go to war it will be with the utmost reluctance by all classes, Ministers of Government and all. Time will show, and it is no use writing or thinking about it.

"With respect to Design, I feel more inclined to show a white flag than to fire my usual long-range shot. I like to try and ask you a puzzling question, but when you return the compliment I have great doubts whether it is a fair way of arguing."

It was in January, 1862, while the trying question (not of the design of Providence, but the less profound design of the United States Government in respect to Wilkes's captives) was still pending, that Darwin wrote to a friend at home:

"I thought it best to make a clean breast to ——, and told him that the Boston dinner, etc., had quite turned my stomach, and that I almost thought it would be good for the peace of the world if the United States were split up. On the other hand, I said that I groaned to think of the slaveholders being triumphant, and that the difficulties of making a line of separation would be fearful. . . . Certainly I agree with you that the present American row has a very Torifying influence on us all."

Two months later, when that crisis had passed, he wrote to his American correspondent:

"Thanks for the newspapers (though they did contain digs at England), and for your note. It is really almost a pleasure to receive stabs from so smooth, polished, and sharp a dagger as your pen. I heartily wish I could sympathize more fully with you, instead of merely hating the South. We canot enter into your feelings; if Scotland were to rebel, I presume we should be very wrath, but I do not think we should care a penny what other nations thought."

Again, in February, 1863:

"I read Cairnes's excellent Lecture, which shows so well how your quarrel arose from slavery. It made me for a time wish honestly for the North; but I could never help, though I tried, all the time thinking how we should be bullied and forced into a war by you, when you were triumphant. But I do most truly think it dreadful that the South, with its accursed slavery, should triumph, and spread the evil. I think if I had power, which, thank God, I have not, I would let you conquer the border States, and all west of the Mississippi, and then force you to acknowledge the cotton States. For do you not now begin to doubt whether you can conquer and hold them? . . .

"The *Times* is getting more detestable (but that is too weak a word) than ever. My good wife wishes to give it up, but I tell her that is a pitch of heroism to which only a woman is equal. To give up the 'Bloody Old *Times*,' as Cobbett used to call it, would be to give up meat, drink, and air."

In another letter some hope dawns: "I hope and think it not unlikely that we English are wrong in concluding that it will take a long time for prosperity to return to you." Happily, he lived to see the returning prosperity and reunion, and to rejoice in them.

If we were to touch upon the scientific topics which in some form or other make up the staple of these volumes, we should have to fill pages. Let such matters be relegated to the scientific journals. Nor may we venture now to cull from the livelier and more personal portions, and the charming exhibitions of good feeling, which light up the pages as with sunshine. Darwin's thanks for every service, and his praise of other people's contributions or elucidations are truly profuse. Disparagement he reserves for himself, and if he criticises, there is never an ill-natured word for the weak points of others. Yet playful hits abound. He was experimenting laboriously as to how long seeds would retain vitality under exposure to ocean water when he wrote: "Have not some men a nice notion of experimenting? I have had a letter telling me that seeds *must* have *great* power of resisting salt water, for, otherwise, how could they get to islands? This is the true way to solve a problem!" Nor will he allow "a good joke" at his own expense to be lost: "H. C. Watson, who I fancy and hope is going to review the new edition of the 'Origin,' says that in the first four paragraphs the words I, me, and my occur forty-three times! I was dimly conscious of the accursed fact. He says it can be explained phrenologically, which, I suppose, civilly means that I am the most egotistically self-sufficient man alive. Perhaps so. I wonder whether he will print this pleasing fact." A postscript adds: "Do not spread this pleasing joke; it is rather too biting." Of his almost single case of "writing in newspapers" he says:

"I have been gnashing my teeth at my own folly; and this not caused by ——'s sneers, which were so good that I almost enjoyed them. I have written once again to own to a certain extent of truth in what he says, and then if I am ever such a fool again, have no mercy on me. I have read the squib in *Public Opinion;* it is capital; if there is more, and you have a copy, do lend it. It shows well that a scientific man had better be trampled in dirt than squabble."

Certainly he was "the quietest of the set"; and as to the squib, our readers may enjoy it as much as Darwin did. It is—

"A lively account of a police case, in which the quarrels of scientific men are satirized. Mr. John Bull gives evidence that—

"'The whole neighborhood was unsettled by their disputes; Huxley quarrelled with Owen, Owen with Darwin, Lyell with Owen, Falconer and Prestwich with Lyell, and Gray, the menagerie man, with everybody. He had pleasure, however, in stating that Darwin was the quietest of the set. They were always picking bones with each other and fighting over their gains. If either of the gravel sifters or stone breakers found anything, he was obliged to conceal it immediately, or one of the old bone collectors would be sure to appropriate it first and deny the theft afterwards, and the consequent wranglings and disputes were as endless as they were wearisome.'

"Lord Mayor—'Probably the clergyman of the parish might exert some influence over them?'

"The gentleman smiled, shook his head, and stated that he regretted to say that no class of men paid so little attention to the opinions of the clergy as that to which these unhappy men belonged."

This little anecdote of Lyell it can do no harm to repeat; it is in a letter of the year 1854:

"Lyell told me that he was so delighted with one of Agassiz's lectures on progressive development, etc., that he went to him afterwards and told him that it was so delightful that he could not all the time help wishing it was true. I seldom see a zoölogical paper from North America without observing the impress of Agassiz's doctrines—another proof, by the way, of how great a man he is."

We have said that these volumes are admirably edited. We have found only one oversight. It is in the sentence on page 258 of the third volume: "Although, according to Dr. Gray, Brown, in common with the rest of the world, looked on Sprengel's ideas as fantastic, yet it was at his recommendation that my father in 1841 read his now celebrated 'Secret of Nature Displayed.'" The article from *Nature* (1874, p. 80) here referred to says, on the contrary, that Brown "looked upon Sprengel's ideas as *far from fantastic.*" The authority for the statement seems to have been Darwin himself, who, in a foot-note on page 271 of the 'Fertilization of Orchids,' says: "Many years ago Robert Brown, to whose judgment all botanists defer, spoke highly of it (Sprengel's book) to me, and remarked that only those who knew little of the subject would laugh at him."

Here we drop these most interesting volumes, of which, after all, we have given only a partial and desultory account.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

Mr. John Dimitry's idea of excerpting from Rabelais the simple incidents of the lives of Grandgousier, Gargantua, and Pantagruel, for children, seems to us almost as fantastic as the humor of the original. 'Three Good Giants' is what he calls the handsome little book that results (Boston: Ticknor & Co.), but how this gluttonous and slaughtering trio can attach themselves to any notion of *good* in the infant mind, we cannot guess; much less how their history can inspire goodness. In fact, with all his exclusions, Mr. Dimitry has opened an unredeemed vista of gross animal living and brutal ferocity. We cannot think that it is a gain to the nursery library to put within reach the killing of Loupgarou, or Panurge's trickery, or the most of the moral examples here brought together with more than usual painstaking and literary skill. We suspect that the desire to save for children the grotesque designs of Doré and Robida weighed more with the compiler than he was himself aware in undertaking his task. Exceptions to Mr. Dimitry's punctiliousness are noticeable in his occasional misuse of shall and will, and he has more than once connived at the proof-reader's "Nôtre Dâme" and "Montpelier."

Classic in every sense, Hawthorne's 'Tanglewood Tales' will contribute to the delectation of the young for generations yet to come. The guise in which Houghton, Mifflin & Co. have now put it forth will be grateful to the children who receive it. A better child's book, with its admirable print and paper, it is not easy to name. Mr. Geo. Wharton Edwards's illustrations, if not even as sound, archæologically, as the pictures of Alma Tadema, or in all cases conformed to the text, are, perhaps, as well suited to children's minds as if they were severely correct. The readers for whom the stories were intended are not critical as to classical consistency, and the exaggerated giants and monsters of Mr. Edwards will impress the juvenile imagination more than something less suggestive of Gulliver and Brobdingnag. But why the artist should have

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Theseus kill the Minotaur with such an absurd and impossible action it is difficult to see, when the story gives clearly the *modus operandi* thus: "But Theseus by this time had leaped up [having been floored] and caught the monster off his guard. Fetching a sword-stroke at him with all his force, he hit him fair upon the neck, and made his bull-head skip six yards from his human body," etc. The artist makes Theseus lift the Minotaur off the ground, and hold him up with one arm while he stabs him in the throat with an upward thrust which at best could only penetrate to his brain. Then he puts Talus, the bronze giant, standing on the water, for which there is no suggestion in the story; on the contrary, he is represented as in the attitude of the Colossus of Rhodes, "with a foot firmly planted on each headland." These are contradictions of the story which, to children, are serious matters, and which are evidence of reprehensible want of that study of his text which is the first and simplest duty of every illustrator, though Mr. Edwards has in various particulars shown himself indifferent to it. The process reproductions of washed drawings are curiously felicitous, and the printing of them in every respect admirable.

Mr. Howard Pyle's 'Wonder Clock' (Harper & Bros.) is an effective reprint of a series of stories, of the goblin and magical order, from *Harper's Young People*, and one of the best emulations of the German popular fairy story thus far achieved. It is not easy to dig in the furrows of those old workers in fiction—the simplicity and pithiness of the popular creation is hardly attainable by the educated literary mind; but the author of the 'Wonder Clock' has so deeply imbued himself with the character of the literature collected by the Grimms and their successors, that to most children these stories will have as great interest as their prototypes. It is unnecessary to say that it often happens that old material appears *en bloc* in the new structure; but this was inevitable, and occurs equally in the old stories. The illustrations are effective, quite happily wedded to the stories, and thoroughly artistic.

Mr. Horace E. Scudder gives us another grouping of some of the best-known fairy tales, such as "Tom Thumb," "The Three Bears," "The White Cat." He calls it 'The Book of Folk Stories' (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.), and he has rewritten the various stories with very simple words and phrases, in order to suit the capacity of children no older than eight years. He hopes that the book may not only give pleasure, but be useful as a reader for little scholars.

The character of the heroine in 'Esther: a Book for Girls,' by Rosa Nonchette Carey (Lippincott), is meant to be an unusually strong as well as sweet one. But what becomes of the loveliness of a young woman who tells elaborately the story of her own virtues? The third person should have been used. The moral contradiction arising from employment of the first person is insufferable; and religious phraseology does not mend matters.

A still more liberal use of this phraseology is noticeable in the latest of Martha Finley's well-known "Elsie Books," entitled 'Elsie's Friends at Woodburn' (Dodd, Mead & Co.). And still more apparent, also, is the advocacy of highly developed religious self-consciousness. The orthodox formulas in which this is described will naturally recommend the story to persons who cherish those formulas, but not even such persons should forget the dangers which await a mental vision that turns too often inward. Common sense forbids stimulating the youthful mind, either in real life or in fiction, to excited religious introspection. There is a good deal that is pleasant in the affectionate relation of the father to his children in Martha Finley's book, but the sentiment is too effusive for good taste, and much of the talk is stiff, priggish, and overstrained. In a word, the tone of neither of these volumes at all comes up to our ideal of a healthy one in reading for the young.

It would be hard to find a better gift for a young girl fond of using her fingers and of pleasing her friends than 'The American Girls' Handy-Book,' by Lina Beard and Adelia B. Beard (Scribners). It covers some of the ground of 'The American Girls' Home-Book of Work and Play,' published a few years ago, but is superior to that in respect of the novelty and variety of information given as to making fancy and useful articles. The chapters on "Furniture, Old and New," and on "Sea-Side Cottage Decoration," are specially charming. The authors must be among the most ingenious of their sex. Their instructions are clear, and accompanied by a great many excellent wood-cuts, which at once embellish the text and aid much the reader's comprehension. We also find suggestions for pastimes and pleasures for every season of the year, and some of the games described embody unusual novelty. The hints given for Thanksgiving and Christmas merriment are capital. Then, too, the different kinds of topics are nicely intermingled, so that weariness is avoided. Some of the matter contained in this attractive book has appeared previously in different magazines for the young—as is, with too rare candor, stated in the preface; but this will not prevent its being most acceptable to many a bright and diligent maiden.

'Storied Holidays: a Cycle of Red-Letter Days,' is the title of a pleasant book by E. S. Brooks (Boston: D. Lothrop Co.). Among the holidays which are here associated with stories of the olden time are Christmas, New Year's, St. Valentine's Day, and others as familiar, while some, such as Michaelmas and All-Hallowe'en, are more famous on the other than on this side of the water. "The Daughter of Daicles" carries us back to Greek festival days, to the Olympiad of 480 B. C. "When George the Third was King" tells about our first Independence Day, and states some interesting facts regarding it which will be new to most readers, young or old. The general character of the book is sketchy and fragmentary, there being so little material on which to found the stories. But they are interesting for the most part, and will be very useful in helping to fix historical remembrance. They do not all appear for the first time. Each tale has a full-page illustration.

'Jack Hall,' by Robert Grant (Boston: Jordan, Marsh & Co.), is intended to be a reminder of the immortal 'Tom Brown,' through showing both contrast and likeness to an English boy's experience in 'The School Days of an American Boy'; and it is spirited and interesting, though hardly likely to rival its transatlantic predecessor. The accounts of the snow-ball fights in Boston streets, and of the base-ball game and boat-races, are graphic and animated. Surely the author must have been in them all himself. Indeed, one can hardly escape the impression that the book was written chiefly for the pleasure of describing boys' fun and the athletic sports of the day. Much is said about the latter's not being rightly the first object in life, but the *set* of the book is against this sensible idea. Talk about religion, of which there is a good deal in 'Tom Brown,' gives place in 'Jack Hall' to sound moral advice. It is a mistake, however, not to point out clearly the wickedness of attempts to inspire terror in practical joking. The amount and variety of slang introduced into both narrative and conversation, though a serious blemish from more than one point of view, will, of course, make the book only the more attractive to boys. We must concede that it helps to render the story life-like—how without it could base-ball be described? The illustrations, by Attwood, appear to have suffered in the hands of the engraver.

'The Boy Travellers on the Congo' (Harpers), by Thomas W. Knox, is simply an abridgment of Stanley's 'Through the Dark Continent,' and we are unable to see why this fact was not more clearly indicated on the title-page. The 'Boy Travellers,' who must be well on towards manhood by this time, do not go to the Congo, as the reader is naturally led to expect, but read aloud portions of Stanley's work. These are printed verbatim, the editor's part consisting merely of brief introductions and occasional condensations in the various chapters, together with a short account in the closing pages of the Emin Pasha Relief Expedition and of Masai Land. Like the other books of this series, it is profusely illustrated, and has some serviceable maps on the insides of the covers.

The scene of 'Ran Away from the Dutch' (Dodd, Mead & Co.), translated and adapted from the work of M. T. H. Perelaer, is laid in Borneo. Four soldiers desert from a fort in the southern part of the island, and, after numerous adventures and hair-breadth escapes, succeed in reaching Sarawak. Much useful information about the country, the people, their homes, and manner of life is brought into the story, but it is rather clumsily told, and there is an unnecessary and wearisome use of native words to express common things. It was a mistake, also, in a book intended partially for instruction, to assert that "it is really a positive fact, which many savants have accepted," that there are "tailed-people" in Borneo; nor should the travellers have been made to see a glacier-clad mountain. The book is very attractive in its outward appearance.

'On Special Service' (A. C. Armstrong & Son), by Gordon Stables, is a sea-story in which scenes in the life of a midshipman on an English man-of-war are pictured by one who is evidently very familiar with it. Though incidents are not wanting, and some are decidedly sensational, like the capture of the slaver and the negro fort on the Gold Coast and the fight with the pirate in the Indian Ocean, yet the story lacks life and "go." It is entirely unobjectionable, however, and possesses this negative merit in addition, that it will probably never make any boy reader restless and anxious to become a sailor.

In the 'Making of the Great West' (Chas. Scribner's Sons), Mr. S. A. Drake tells in outline the story of the discovery and settlement of that part of our country lying to the west of the Mississippi. He has succeeded in his task—easy so far as relates to the collection of the historical materials, difficult in making them into a connected and lively story—very well, both in his arrangement and manner of narration. Young persons who may find the earlier chapters somewhat dry reading cannot fail to be interested in those describing the events of the past eighty years. Since the author desires to have this and its companion volumes used by school-children, as in our judgment they are very well fitted to be, we will call his attention, for future correction if possible, to a verbal error on page 94, where "from Quebec to the Saint Lawrence" should read "from Quebec to the Mississippi." The quotation from Victor Hugo on page 79 is not only irrelevant, but curiously incorrect. The statement is that Henrietta, widow of Charles I., "died at Cologne, in the house where, sixty-five years before, Ru-

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bens, her painter, was born." The facts are, that Rubens was born at Siegen in 1577, and Queen Henrietta died in 1666 at Colombe, near Paris. The book would have been more valuable had there been two general maps of the region treated, the one so shaded as to show the original possessions of the Spaniards, French, and English; the other showing the present political divisions. Some of the numerous illustrations are very good, but others, as that, for instance, on page 309, are simply execrable. There is an excellent index.

Self-reliance and the right use of one's time and opportunities are the lessons which are taught young people in the works of "Jak." The heroes of this author's previous stories have been boys, but in 'Who Saved the Ship?' (T. Y. Crowell & Co.), it is a girl who is the rescuer, a boy who fails and is literally shipwrecked. A second and much longer story in this volume is "The Man of the Family," in which are told the successful efforts of a fatherless lad of sixteen to make a home for his family. The pictures of Western frontier life are well drawn and very interesting. Those which seem to be overdrawn —the charming home which a college professor and his young bride have made in a "dug-out," as well as the incidents of the shipwreck—the author assures us are "truthful narrations." From the same writer and publishers comes 'The Giant Dwarf,' a story of German peasant life. A boy runs away from home in order to escape from its sordid and hopeless surroundings, and finds employment with a cripple, a man of high motives and great intelligence, a maker of toys and clocks. Under his influence the boy develops, and even the stagnant little village itself is gradually transformed. The story, which is suited to both young and old, is told very easily and is full of local color, with incidents sufficient to maintain the reader's interest from the beginning to the end.

'Afloat in a Great City' (Cassell & Co.), by Frank A. Munsey, is a story of the "dime novel" order. The scene is laid partly in New York and partly at sea, the hero being a young ragpicker, who, by some very remarkable coincidences, comes into the possession of a large fortune. There is some picturesqueness in the author's style, but the book is carelessly written, and, though there is nothing really objectionable in it, we cannot recommend it.

'Bonnie Prince Charlie' (Scribner & Welford), by G. A. Henty, is not so much the hero of this story as young Ronald Leslie and his faithful friend and servant, the old soldier, Malcom. They have numerous adventures of an exciting and, we must say, improbable character, which always end happily. The incidents of the battles of Dettingen and Fontenoy, and of the Pretender's romantic march from the Highlands to Derby and the defeat at Culloden, are told with much spirit. The scenes laid in France give a very good idea of the lawlessness prevailing in that country during the middle of the last century. The book is thoroughly interesting, and the historical portions are more skilfully interwoven with the narrative than has been the case in some of this author's previous stories.

ILLUSTRATED HOLIDAY BOOKS.—II.

The Land of Sleepy Hollow and the Home of Washington Irving. A series of photogravure representations, with descriptive letter-press by J. L. Williams, together with Irving's 'Legend of Sleepy Hollow,' etc. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Enoch Arden. By Alfred Tennyson. Illustrated, engraved, and printed under the supervision of George T. Andrew; drawings by Edmund H. Garrett and Chas. Copeland. E. P. Dutton & Co.

Ballads of Romance and History. By Susan Coolidge, Adeline D. T. Whitney, Sarah O. Jewett, Margaret Sidney, Nora Perry, Celia Thaxter, Harriet Prescott Spofford, Margaret J. Preston, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Lucy Larcom, Kate Putnam Osgood, S. M. B. Piatt. Illustrated by Geo. Foster Barnes, Edmund H. Garrett, Harry Sandham, F. Childe Hassam, W. L. Taylor. Boston: D. Lothrop Co.

A Bunch of Violets. Gathered by Irene E. Jerome. Boston: Lee & Shepard.

The Bridal of Triermain. By Sir Walter Scott. With fourteen illustrations by Percy Macquoid, R.I. Boston: Lee & Shepard.

The Count of Monte-Cristo. By Alexander Dumas. With nearly 500 illustrations. In 5 vols. Geo. Routledge & Sons.

THE sound policy of selecting our American classics whose permanent interest is assured, for the lavish illustration and decoration which are becoming the vogue among publishers, is amply justified by the admirable book for which the material is furnished by Irving and Irving's home. As a work of pure illustration it is unique. Besides the reproduction of some of Darley's familiar outlines, the volume is illustrated by about thirty landscapes, mostly double, from the "Land of Sleepy Hollow"—all photographed from nature, and, with few exceptions, so well chosen and treated as to be unequalled by any similar collection produced on this side of the Atlantic. For the photogravures, not even this qualification need be made. There is, in some of the views, the too common fault, in negatives made for process prints, of insufficient exposure. This leaves the shadows in an undistinguishing blackness, which is a defect in any photograph, and which in all forms of process printing is much worse than in silver prints on albumenized paper from the same negative. In the frontispiece, for instance, and the views following pages 35, 50, and 64, and those before pages 57, 59, the landscape suffers by a needless loss of detail and meaning, and by blackness in all the deeper shadows, the photographer not having learned that what makes a good silver print does not always make a good photogravure, and that for the latter the higher limit of exposure should always be given. On the other hand, the views opposite pages 2, 10 (the larger), 26 (both), 48, 52 (especially fine as subject and photograph), 65, and 72, are of the very best class of photographic work. Several of these are gems of their kind, and will surprise even photographers who are not fully conversant with the recent advance in that branch of engraving in which the Photogravure Co. stands unsurpassed now, when it is a question of dealing with negatives from nature. When we add to this that the make-up of the volume is superb as to typography, paper, printing, and binding, and that the edition is limited to 600 copies, we have said all that is needful.

The make-up of Messrs. Dutton & Co.'s 'Enoch Arden' is luxurious. Each page—text on one side of the leaf and illustration on the other—is prepared for the imprint by various watered decorative designs, and the illustrations, thoughtfully if not always equally conceived, are cut with all the care characteristic of our school of wood-engravers. Some of the last designs are rather lackadaisical, but when forty-four designs have to be invented for a poem of the length of 'Enoch Arden,' it is certain that some will be, if only by comparison, weak. Moreover, the poem does not lend itself so well as most of Tennyson's to illustration. The landscapes are particularly good, which is perhaps hardly complimentary to a poem of especial sentimental and human interest, but, judged from any point of view, the book must be admitted to be one of the best illustrated publications of the year. Of course, as a rule, poems by the masters of verse can only be adequately illustrated by a corresponding intellectual power, and in general publishers consider book illustration as a kind of art which may be done by anybody who can draw. To follow out and embody the ideals of a great poet requires in some sort a sympathetic mind, but the illustrator, like the poet, *nascitur non fit*, and all that we can do is to get the best our generation gives us, and, in conscience and devotion, get it to do its best. There is no excuse for careless and frivolous, much less for impertinent designing, and thoughtful illustration is indispensable even if the art be not of the best. When this is not the case, it is generally the fault of the publisher.

The Authors' Club had once the idea to undertake a work similar to the 'Ballads of Romance and History,' but it still remains a project. The present volume, which to a certain extent realizes the dream of the Club, leaves the triumph of successful union of pen and pencil in a harmonious league something still to be accomplished. The verses seem too lame, the designs are too unequal, and the general make-up falls short. One can only say what might have been with more polish in the first, more conscience and study in the second, and more outlay in the third. Of the series of ballads that with the truest ring, "York Garrison," is fortunately wedded to the most appreciative design; the illustrations of Mr. Taylor in this case being admirable and in full sympathy with the text. Of the other illustrations not so much can be said, the most flimsy and irrelevant being those of Mr. Hassam, who evidently does not trouble his brains much with his text, and brings no compensation in the artistic quality of his drawings. The really pathetic ballad, despite some carelessness of form, "The Tenement House Fire," Mr. Hassam professes to have "decorated," but it is doubtful if decorated is any more proper term in this case than "illustrated." Both terms imply an addition of something—decorous in one case and explanatory in the other—and it can hardly be said of his work that it is either.

The collecting of poems and extracts relating to violets might have led, with a little art and enterprise, to the making of an excellent Christmas book, but in the case of 'A Bunch of Violets' it has produced indifferent results. The designs are commonplace, and the wood-engraving far below the American standard. When so much admirable wood-cutting and thoughtful designing is given us by the illustrated monthlies, and even by the weeklies, works like 'A Bunch of Violets' can hardly expect commendation for their art.

An English designer is responsible for the drawings made to accompany the 'Bridal of Triermain,' and reproduced by some form of heliotype. They are mostly figure studies, though one or two landscape views are much the most meritorious of the series. The paucity of imagination and the defects of draughtmanship are little short of amusing, and presumption is the sole word befitting the artist's undertaking. The text is clearly and even handsomely printed on an oblong page; but the binding in its general conception is worthy of the illustrations; and the whole performance must be ranked as fourth or fifth-rate.

The Messrs. Routledge's edition of 'The Count of Monte-Cristo' does not, like the foregoing works, exist for the sake of its pictures, plenti-

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ful as these are. It is a library edition for the shelf, not the centre-table—five large and solid octavos, printed (and beautifully printed, by the De Vinne Press) on highly calendered paper, and simply bound in olive-green cloth. It takes its place beside the 'Misérables' issued by the same house. We have need here to speak only of the illustrations, which are of French origin. We cannot vouch for the exact date of their production, but they are as much out of the mode of the present day as the story itself—we were going to say, but Mr. Haggard's 'She' comes to mind. This leaves them, however, in harmony with the text, Romantic both, and both landmarks in the history of popular literature. We can turn readily to better art for household and every-day delight—better design, better wood-engraving. There is a mass of fiction which is more to our taste than Dumas's famous melodrama. All we can say is that they are here well mated, and that those who read English, and not French, have in this edition the comeliest embodiment of them known to us.

The Life and Times of John Jay, Secretary of Foreign Affairs under the Confederation, and First Chief Justice of the United States. By William Whitelock. Dodd, Mead & Co.

THE first impression on handling this book is of excessive weight, out of all proportion to its size; and one finds on examination that this is due to very heavy and costly paper—a fair return for the price, doubtless, in the eyes of those persons who cannot conceive that paper can be too heavy, margins too wide, engravings too costly, and the like. In one of the most attractive pages of the 'Autocrat,' Dr. Holmes says: "The teaspoon should be of white silver, *solid, but not brutally heavy, as people in the* green stage of millionism will have them"—and the rule holds with book paper.

As with the raw material, so with the cookery. This 'Life of Jay' is made big and weighty by the addition of chapters, and parts of chapters, which are good enough as far as the thought and, if we use a little charity, the style goes. But they are pure padding, commonplace and needless. The author says: "It may be thought that the following work is of too historical a nature for a biography; but for a full understanding of the causes which led to the independence of the colonies, and Jay's consequent participation in national affairs, it has proved necessary to go back and trace events prior to the Revolution." And so we proceed to chapter after chapter, one, for instance, on "Taxation," and one on "Tea," which do not add a valuable word to what any school pupil can get in a reasonably good United States history. Really, any person who wishes to read the life of John Jay at all, might be supposed to know something. The author appeals for a precedent to Marshall's 'Washington.' Is he not aware that the later editions of that driest of books discarded two whole volumes of matter on the general subject of colonial history, which had proved effectually the truth of dear old Hesiod's line:

"Fools! who know not how half is more than all"?

There has rarely been a great man that deserved so little to be confounded with "his times" in this manner as John Jay. There was a peculiar personality about him, that deserves to be tracked, if possible, to its most secret springs in private life, as distinct from the sources that were supplying all minds of the day. He had an inborn probity, a genius for virtue, which makes Madison and Adams, much more Franklin and Jefferson, appear defective, and ranks him with Washington, with Greene, with Wilberforce, with Malesherbes—men who could not do wrong if they tried—those good men, for whom, as St. Paul says, "one might even dare to die." It is now considered the duty of a biographer, in writing the lives of such men as Hamilton, or Erskine, or Nelson, to suppress and even laud their vices. Perhaps "men's charitable speeches" demand so much; let Jay's personal virtue, in which he exceeded such men as Epaminondas and Russell, be set out in detail. For, if a foreigner or a child should ask for the saint of our Revolution—not the hero, or the philosopher, or the orator, or the financier, but the best man who gave his services to his country—what name would rise to our lips sooner than John Jay? He was "Chief Justice" by nature as by office.

It will be inferred from what has been said that we do not think Mr. Whitelock's book is worthy of his subject. "'I have no doubt he means well, my dear,' said Mr. Micawber, 'but I have not yet found that he carries out his meaning in any particular direction whatever.'" He has not the penetration or the grasp of mind adequate for entering into Jay's character and setting it in its right position. His own methods desert him at critical points. It is his object, for instance, to vindicate Jay's character as the author of the famous "Treaty." As this document is much more talked about than known, it would have been an excellent *thing to print it in full in an appendix.* Mr. Whitelock has so inserted two other state papers of Jay's, valuable, but not by any means so identified with Jay's name as is the treaty. But no treaty do we find in the appendix.

There is another obvious flaw in the author's historical method. He appears to have read English history solely as a supplement to American history, and not for its own sake. This is a very common fault with American historians, even such distinguished ones as Dr. Palfrey and Mr. Bancroft. Their elaborate chapters on events in England are, not merely in their pages but in their minds, only episodes in the grand sequence of American events, like the battle of Preston Pans in 'Waverley.' Yet those men at least have been forced, by the amount of European history they have read, to acquire some independent conception of it, however their intense nationality acts to sink it to a place below its intrinsic importance. But what are we to think of a writer who again and again writes "Townsend" and "Lucerne" for "Townshend" and "Luzerne"? We are sure Mr. Whitelock would be disgusted with "Ticonderago" or "Massachussets"—both very common in English historians; yet he rivals such authors.

To close with praise after censure, let us say that we regard the author's defence of the principles and temper of the Federalists against those of their opponents from 1800 till the present time as excellently done—a piece of manly, spirited, truthful writing; much the best thing in the book.

Victorian Poets. By Edmund Clarence Stedman. Revised and extended, by a supplementary chapter, to the fiftieth year of the period under review. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1887.

ON the first appearance of Mr. Stedman's 'Victorian Poets' we gladly pointed out its great merit as a hand-book of English poetry during the Victorian period, while we felt called on to demur mildly at its claim as "an essay in philosophical criticism." It now appears in a fourteenth edition, with a supplementary chapter of some seventy pages, extending the range of examination up to the end of the fiftieth year of the Queen's reign. In this Appendix the critical element is necessarily smaller and the hand-book quality more marked than in the main work; indeed, one examines it with almost a sensation of pity for the labor of eyesight required in making such a catalogue of microscopic authors. Some of them are on a scale so small that the recorder has been unable to ascertain their birthdays, so that they appear in the margin, with melancholy vagueness, as having been born in 18—. But it is far better, after all, to be too comprehensive than the reverse; and the humblest of these bards may, at any moment, appear among us in person, ready and anxious to lecture Americans on any conceivable theme, in words of one syllable. Mr. Stedman, in his additional chapter, takes occasion to restate, with some modifications, his earlier judgment on certain leading poets; especially in the case of Browning, whom he now pronounces the "leader-elect" of the immediate future, as was Tennyson of the time just gone by. He is perhaps a little too sarcastic upon the Browning societies, which in this country have passed their period of effervescence and settled down upon simple and creditable work. One of the most valuable portions of Mr. Stedman's volume is the analytic index, which is reconstructed and made to include both parts of the book—a work which is, after all, so carefully and thoroughly done that it will fill in every library a place that must otherwise have remained empty.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Alden, Mrs. G. R. The Pansy: Stories of Child Life, at Home and Abroad, and of Modern and Ancient History. Illustrated. Boston: D. Lothrop Co. $1.25.
Allen, W. B. The Northern Cross; or, Randolph's Last Year at the Boston Latin School. Boston: D. Lothrop Co. $1.
Baker, G. M. The Humorous Speaker. Boston: Lee & Shepard. $1.
Bruce, Prof. A. B. The Humiliation of Christ, in its Physical, Ethical, and Official Aspects. 2d ed. A. C. Armstrong & Co. $2.50.
Bryce, L. S. Paradise: A Novel. Funk & Wagnalls. 25 cents.
Carrington, Dean H. Translations from the Poems of Victor Hugo. Thomas Whittaker.
Coxe, Bishop A. C. Institutes of Christian History. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. $1.50.
De Omnibus Rebus. An Old Man's Discursive Ramblings on the Road of Every-Day Life. By the Author of 'Flemish Interiors.' Illustrated. London: John C. Nimmo.
Dolbear, Prof. A. E. The Art of Projecting: A Manual of Experimentation in Physics, Chemistry, and Natural History with the Porte Lumière and Magic Lantern. Boston: Lee & Shepard. $1.
Doran, Dr. Annals of the English Stage, from Betterton to Edmund Kean. Edited and Revised by R. W. Lowe. Illustrated. In 3 vols. London: John C. Nimmo.
Dumas, A. The Count of Monte-Christo. In 5 vols. Illustrated. George Routledge & Sons. $15.
For Her Daily Bread. With preface by Col. Robert G. Ingersoll. Chicago: Rand, McNally & Co. 25 cents.
Geikie, Rev. C. The Holy Land and the Bible. In 2 vols. James Pott & Co.
Gerry, C. F. Meadow Melodies. Illustrated. Boston: Lee & Shepard. $1.75.
Grier, Sarah A. A Few Hints About Cooking, with Remarks on Many Other Subjects. Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co.
Irving, W. Belles-Lettres Works. Tappan Zee Edition. 12 vols. G. P. Putnam's Sons. $12.
Jesup, Rev. H. G. Edward Jessup of West Farms, Westchester County, N. Y., and his Descendants. Cambridge: John Wilson & Son.
Jones, L. E. The Best Reading: Bibliography of the More Important English and American Publications for the Five Years ending December 7, 1886. G. P. Putnam's Sons. $1.
Kirby, E. N. Vocal and Action-Language, Culture and Expression. Boston: Lee & Shepard. $1.25.
Lakeman, Mary. Faith's Festivals. Boston: Lee & Shepard. $1.
Leander, R. German Fantasies by French Firesides. G. P. Putnam's Sons. $1.
Mathews, W. Men, Places, and Things. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co. $1.50.
Mowry, W. A. Studies in Civil Government. Boston: Silver, Rogers & Co.
Ogden, Ruth. His Little Royal Highness. E. P. Dutton & Co. $2.
O'Meara, Kathleen. Narka, the Nihilist. Harper & Brothers.
O'Rell, M. Friend McDonald and the Land of the Mounseer. Harper & Brothers. 20 cents.
Our Little Men and Women: Illustrated Stories and Poems for Youngest Readers. Boston: D. Lothrop Co. $1.50.
Proctor, R. A. Easy Lessons in the Differential Calculus. Longmans, Green & Co. 90 cents.
Proctor, R. A. First Steps in Geometry. Longmans, Green & Co. $1.25.
Proctor, R. A. Half-Hours with the Stars: A Plain and Easy Guide to the Constellations, specially prepared for American Students. G. P. Putnam's Sons. $3.
Renan, E. Histoire du Peuple d'Israël. Vol. I. Paris: Calmann Lévy; New York: B. Westermann & Co.
Richardson, Dr. B. W. The Health of Nations: A Review of the Works of Edwin Chadwick. In 2 vols. Longmans, Green & Co.
Rowbotham, J. F. The Death of Roland: An Epic Poem. London: Trübner & Co.
Saunders, F. The Story of Some Famous Books. A. C. Armstrong & Co. $1.25.
Scott, Sir W. Rob Roy. Boston: Ginn & Co.

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